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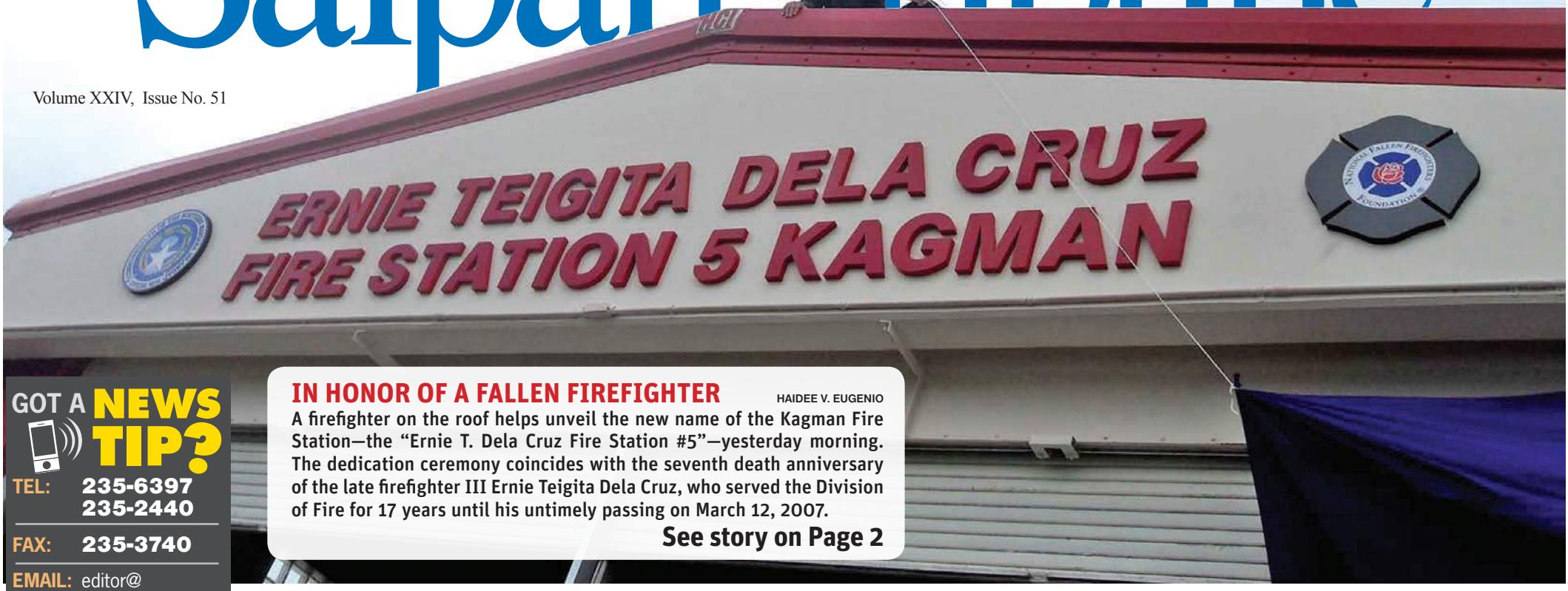
THURSDAY MARCH 13, 2014

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ERNIE TEIGITA DELA CRUZ
FIRE STATION 5 KAGMAN

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OPINION METER

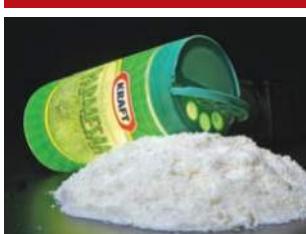
This week's poll:

The Marianas Economic Research and Development Foundation has launched a petition that asks: "Should casino gaming be authorized in the Third Senatorial District (Saipan)?" How would you answer this?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS



Would Parmesan by any other name be as tasty atop your pasta?

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ASIA



Authorities concede not knowing where the missing Malaysian Airlines was headed when it disappeared.

► PAGE 17

IN HONOR OF A FALLEN FIREFIGHTER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A firefighter on the roof helps unveil the new name of the Kagman Fire Station—the "Ernie T. Dela Cruz Fire Station #5"—yesterday morning. The dedication ceremony coincides with the seventh death anniversary of the late firefighter III Ernie Teigita Dela Cruz, who served the Division of Fire for 17 years until his untimely passing on March 12, 2007.

See story on Page 2

'As Gonno victims' legs missing'

» Family finally sees remains of slain couple

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Family members of a Chinese couple who were found dead inside a burned house in As Gonno last Feb. 23, finally saw the bodies but were surprised to see that one had both legs missing while the other had only one leg.

Qing Ying Zheng, sister of victim Qing Xiu Zheng, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that police finally allowed them to see the bodies at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue on Tuesday at 5pm.

Qing Ying Zheng, a store manager,

said they were all surprised to see that her sister's one leg was missing, while the two legs of her sister's husband, Guo Huang Xu, were gone.

She said they will ask police what hap-

See VICTIMS on Page 4

Inos cites more concerns in casino bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he's "not taking any position at this point" whether to sign or veto a controversial Saipan casino bill now before him, even as concerns and questions about the bill's provisions and the Legislature's rushed passage grows. Meanwhile, concerned community members are organizing a forum so that anyone supporting and op-

posing the proposed Saipan casino gaming would be able to ask the governor and lawmakers about the bill's intents and provisions.

In addition to concerns earlier raised, the governor said he would like to make sure that the bill won't preempt casinos already operating, including Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

"Tinian has a local [casino] initiative. We have to respect that. Rota as well; we

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PSS delegates shine in Tumon Bay Music Festival. PAGE 2
Atalig appears in court; judge sets evidentiary hearing. PAGE 5

Hospital's collectibles at \$41M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board members expressed concern yesterday after finding out about the hospital's huge collectibles, which totaled \$41 million last fiscal year.

Trustees were also informed at yesterday's special meeting that the corporation's collection last fiscal year reached nearly \$30 million.

Stunned by the revelation, board vice chair Pete Dela Cruz said he is disappointed with the management's

performance and that of the corporation's collection agency, Guam Marianas Collection Agency.

"If we actually billed over \$40 million in fiscal year 2013 and actually collected that much [nearly \$30 million] how can we ask the Legislature for additional money when we

have this huge amount that we are not able to collect?" asked Dela Cruz.

He also expressed alarm about a similarly huge "allowance for doubtful accounts" as well as amounts marked as written off, deductibles,

See HOSPITAL on Page 4

Dems endorse Deleon Guerrero as guv bet

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Democratic Party will be endorsing tonight the gubernatorial candidacy of former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward "Tofila" M. Deleon Guerrero, even as the Republican Party announced yesterday only three of six needed House Precinct 3 candidates

» **GOP names only 3 of 6 needed Precinct 3 bets**

to give way to independents and candidates from other parties.

Jess Taisague, one of those instrumental in reorganizing the Democratic Party in February, said yesterday that the party will be officially presenting their gubernatorial candidate, Deleon Guerrero, at 6pm in the party's headquarters in Dandan.

Deleon Guerrero, 63, is a former De-

See GUERRERO on Page 4



PICKS OF THE WEEK



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Local

PSS delegates shine in Tumon Bay Music Festival

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three school-based music groups in the Commonwealth made yet another remarkable appearance in this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam after they were selected as the "Judges' Choice" and invited for a repeat show at the festival's finale night.

Based on the official results of the 2014 TBMF released yesterday, last year's overall champion, the Marianas High School Glee Club's Rhythm 'N Harmony, was chosen to perform at the "Command Performance Night" on Saturday where the recipient of the

festival's "Sweepstakes Trophy" is traditionally announced.

Besides Rhythm 'N Harmony, Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band and Koblerville Elementary School's Umang Glee Club also earned slots for the finale night to be held on March 15.

The 2014 Tumon Bay Music Festival will run through Saturday. The adjudicated portion of the competition started on March 6. A special concert is slated on Saturday where the "Judges' Choice" in various categories will perform.

MHS Rhythm 'N Harmony director Paul Dujua confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday the group's

participation in the Command Performance Night after the group was hailed the "Judges' Choice for High School Choir."

Dujua shared that the group, during the adjudicated performance on Friday, sang *I'll Cover You* from *Rent* by Jonathan Larson; *Dies Irae* from *The Requiem* by Mozart; *Somebody That I Used to Know* by Gotye; and *The Ballad of Sweeney Todd* from the Broadway musical *Sweeney Todd*.

MHS Rhythm 'N Harmony is composed of Lady Dominique "Nikki" Canape, Anne Marie Cruz, Emily Lisa Jones, Diane Hermogenes, Jennella Nelmida, Annabel Manzo, Shaina San-

tiago, Lara Samantha Santiago, Lemuel Bunao, Simei Charfauros, William Percil, John Huevos, Darren Cajipo, and Noel Jimenez.

The Glee is also part of the Mack Brandon Project that is scheduled to do the finale on Saturday, according to Dujua.

MHS' Dolphin Pep Band directed by David Frahm was also hailed the Judges' Choice for Pop Ensemble.

Another Saipan delegation that was adjudged one of the winners in the adjudicated performances is the SSHS Manta Band, which was hailed the Judges' Choice for the High School Band category. The group is set for a

repeat performance on the final night.

Manta Ray Band member Allen Seo Park was also adjudged a winner in the Solo Performance Category and has been invited as well for the Command Performance Night.

According to Manta Band musical director William DeWitt, Park plays the euphonium and won with a rendition of *Carnival of Venice* by Arvan.

Koblerville Elementary School's Umang Glee Club is also among the performers that will be showcased on finale night after being hailed the Judges' Choice for Small Ensemble Performance and winning in the High School Choir category of the competition.

Kagman fire station unveils new name in honor of fallen firefighter



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI firefighters have their picture taken after yesterday morning's unveiling of Kagman Fire Station's new name—the "Ernie T. Dela Cruz Fire Station #5"—in honor of the late firefighter, Ernie Teigita Dela Cruz.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"We have not forgotten about you," acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Thomas M. Manglona told a crowd shortly before yesterday morning's unveiling of Kagman Fire Station's new name—the "Ernie T. Dela Cruz Fire Station #5"—in honor of the late firefighter, Ernie Teigita Dela Cruz.

The unveiling of the fire station's new name marked the

exact seventh anniversary of Dela Cruz's untimely passing on March 12, 2007. Dela Cruz worked as a firefighter III for the DPS Fire Division for more than 17 years until his passing during a physical training exercise at work.

"It's a very big honor for him and the whole family. It's such a good timing," the late firefighter's wife, Velma DLG. Dela Cruz, told *Saipan Tribune* at the ceremony. They were married in 1993 and blessed with four children.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Rep. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), the Dela Cruz family, and Fr. Isaac Ayuyu led the fire station's dedication ceremony, which drew a crowd of community members, government officials, firefighters, and police officers.

Manglona, also the director of DPS' Fire Division, remembers with fondness his last conversation with Dela Cruz seven years ago when the latter visited his office to share his plans to help the division

and the community, only to receive news later of Dela Cruz's passing.

The governor, for his part, thanked DPS and Fire Division not only for the dedication ceremony in honor of the late Dela Cruz but also for "risking their lives" to provide a safer community.

Agulto, author of the local bill renaming the Kagman fire station that became law, echoed the governor's statement, honoring and thanking firefighters and other law enforcement officers

for serving the public. He also thanked the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. for the ongoing renovation of the fire station in Kagman.

Both Agulto and Manglona said Dela Cruz is the first from the CNMI to be included in 2010 into the U.S. National Fallen Firefighters Monument.

Officials said the late Dela Cruz was "dedicated and committed" to serving the CNMI people and positively impacted those who were fortunate enough to know him. He was

actively involved in many civic activities in his community, and volunteered in numerous school and church activities. They said that Dela Cruz's sudden passing "was a great loss" to the CNMI.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed in November last year Agulto's House Local Bill 18-20, renaming the Kagman Fire Station in honor of Dela Cruz. In January this year, the governor signed the local bill into Saipan Local Law 18-8.

Frances: Kim made sexual advances on me 4 times

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Frances Quichocho testified yesterday in federal court that Jung Ja Kim, the business-

woman who is suing her and her husband, attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, for racketeering and other claims, made sexual advances on her four times.

Frances also denied Kim's

allegations of a threesome with Kim, and her husband, attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, on two occasions.

Frances also stated that she only made up the story about

baby wipes that contained bloodstains found in their car so she could pick a fight with her husband, Ramon Quichocho.

Frances will continue her tes-

RELATED NEWS

Frances admits taking items from Kim's apartment.

PAGE 8

timony today, Thursday. Before adjourning yesterday afternoon, attorney Colin Thompson,

counsel for Kim, grilled Frances about several chats with Kim.

Frances claimed that she pretended to be Ramon Quichocho in the chats because she suspected her husband of having an affair.

Frances said the first time Kim made a sexual advance on her was in May 2008 when she,

See **FRANCES** on Page 8

Hospital down to 158 nurses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center has dropped from 167 in previous months to 158, according to a report submitted to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board yesterday.

The same report adds that due to attrition, the hospital currently has 42 vacant nursing posts. It also revealed recurring challenges at the nursing department including, among others, difficulty in filling hard-to-fill positions.

In his report to the board, hospital services director Jesse Tudela disclosed that one of the major challenges CHC is facing is recruitment, hiring, and retention of experienced nurses for all in-patient and outpatient nursing units.

He said there is a lack of experienced and qualified nurses on island.

"Nursing experiences in specialty areas—in ICU, NICU, OR, and L&D—are hard to find unless recruitment and hiring from abroad is implemented. The base salary of staff nurses is also unattractive for potential nurse applicants from the U.S. mainland, making it more difficult to fill the 42 vacancies budgeted for CHC," said Tudela.

He said the 42 vacant nursing slots are for 36 staff nurses, two nurse supervisors, two licensed

2 allegedly rob tourist at knifepoint

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Two men have been arrested on charges of robbing a tourist at knifepoint in Tumon early Wednesday morning. They were apprehended only an hour after the crime was reported.

"The victims were able to flag down an officer pretty quickly," Guam Police Department spokesman A.J. Balajadia told PNC. "Having our officers saturate the Tumon area...that helped."

Peter Robert Cruz, 35, and Theodore Dwight Borja Nelson, 23, were booked and confined yesterday morning. The two were found inside a vehicle matching the victim's description and also seen on hotel security footage.

"One of the officers from the precinct went to the hotel and viewed the security cameras and were able to get information out over the air quickly to the officers that were saturating not only the Tumon area but the Upper Tumon and Tamuning area," said Balajadia. "We also had the Agana Precinct standing by in their area waiting for a description of the vehicle as well as the Dededo Precinct. So with everybody working together, including the Criminal Justice Strike Force, that's how they were able to catch [these individuals]."

practical nurses, and two nursing assistants.

Saipan Tribune learned that the 158 nurses CHC currently has include six nurse supervisors, 10 head nurses, 99 staff registered nurses, 21 LPNs, and 22 nursing assistants.

This nursing shortage is contributing to excessive overtime costs. Tudela said it is a challenge to reduce overtime hours when nursing coverage is scarce.

Also contributing to excessive overtimes is the increased number of patients in the medical surgical unit and the additional nursing services needed to cover the primary care access program, or PCAP, at ER after working hours of the Family Care Clinic.

"A major challenge is eliminating salary disparity among nurses. The proposal is to give all nurses salary adjustments based on years of experience and degree obtained, which will include their housing benefits to

their base salary, therefore eliminating the expenses of CHCC," states Tudela's report.

He said that majority of the nursing staff support this proposal and are just waiting for the good news.

Another challenge the report cites is auditing of nursing practices through revision of policies and procedures. To date, it was learned, each unit is still revising their respective nursing unit policy and procedures.

The director of nursing post became vacant in December last year with the departure of Leticia Reyes. It was reported yesterday that finding a qualified nurse with education and experience to fill this post remains difficult.

Tudela said the hospital also lacks nurses to cover services for the Department of Corrections. Currently, staff nurses from various units are being assigned to cover DOC, which adds to the overtime cost. The

Suspected burglar rearranges security camera, unaware of a second camera

An alleged burglar was identified after he rearranged the surveillance camera at the apartment he was burglarizing on Sunday, not knowing the existence of a second hidden camera.

Kehek Bunusek, 43, was arrested Monday in Garapan for burglary and theft. His bail was set at \$2,000 cash.

According to police, the victim had left her apartment at 8am that day and returned at 9:20am, to find her window screen already damaged and her red Gateway laptop and Samsung Note 3 cell phone, all worth \$1,050, missing.

Upon reviewing the video footage of a security camera located in the landlord's room, police officer Jason Tarkong identified the suspect as Bunusek, having dealt with Bunusek several times in the past.

According to police detective Patrick I. George in his report, *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Man who allegedly beat up Mafnas' daughter allowed to post \$500 cash

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday allowed James Anthony P. Webb, a 23-year-old man who allegedly beat up the daughter of Department of Corrections Commissioner Ramon Mafnas, to post a \$500 cash bail and \$4,500 unsecured bond for his temporary release.

Wiseman granted Webb's motion to modify the \$5,000 cash bail the court earlier imposed and instead post 10 percent or \$500 cash plus the unsecured bond.

Webb's mother was named as his third party custodian.

A status conference will be held on April 9.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato represented Webb at the hearing. Assistant attorney general James McAllister ap-

peared for the government.

At a preliminary hearing on March 5, Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio found probable cause to charge Webb with assault and battery, disturbing the peace, criminal trespass, and two counts of criminal mischief.

Police said the alleged beating happened at Mafnas' house in San Roque last Feb. 25.

Police detective Patrick P. Sablan stated in his report that according to the juvenile victim, Webb became upset during their conversation and that he started calling her bad names. He then allegedly kicked her on the abdomen, punched her back and head, and choked her.

Webb allegedly caused damage to a toolbox and the house's kitchen door. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

plan is to identify vacant positions in other units to be used for permanent staffing at DOC.

Despite challenges, notable achievements were made

Tudela reported that at one point, CHC had only 130 nurses due to the mass exodus of its nursing staff, majority of whom left because of uncertainties with their job and non-renewal of housing benefits. At the time, the cost to the hospital was over 2,500 hours of accrued overtime.

Tudela said that bringing the workforce up to 158 is quite an achievement.

"The ongoing plans to cross-train nurses in other units to

reduce OT is being done to diversify staff nurses' skills and to attempt to reduce overtime hours. However, the cross-training is moving at a snail's pace due to staff nurse shortage to cover units," the report states.

Another accomplishment, Tudela said, is the electronic health record system. The nurses appreciate and recognize the importance of using technology,

he added.

The hiring of a nurse continuing educator, or CE, is another accomplishment, improving nursing practice skills and preventing medication errors.

The installation of a swipe card lock system for the medication room is also an accomplishment, ensuring the safe storage of stock medications in wards.

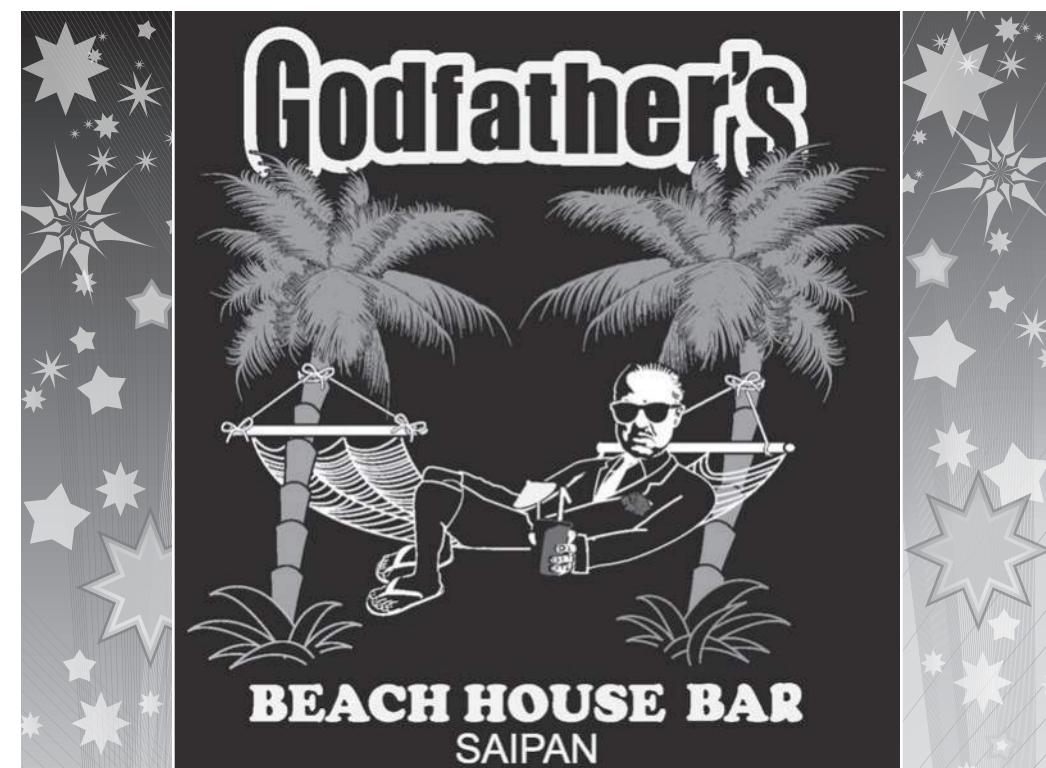
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 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
Red Cross health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety trainings on the following dates:

■ March 19, at 6pm: Adult First Aid/CPR/AED (second session continues Thursday)

■ March 19, at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED

■ March 20, at 6pm: Standard First Aid

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. (PR)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on March 20

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2014, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamaranas@gmail.com or cca@ccamaranas.org. (PR)

Energy announces weatherization program

The CNMI Energy Division would like to inform the general public that the Residential Weatherization Assistance Pro-

gram for Low Income Households is now open and will be accepting applications effective March 18, 2014. Due to limited slots available, this program will be on a first come, first serve basis. WAP application is available at the Energy Division Office in Capitol Hill, building No. 1337. For more information, contact energy auditor Eugene C. Borja at 664-4481. (PR)

Free workshop on how to write a business plan

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be hosting a free workshop titled "How to Write a Business Plan" on March 14, Friday, at the second floor of the Family Building in Garapan, from 10am to 12pm. It will be presented by CNMI

day the 15-day deadline, upon the bill's signing, for any investor to come up with a total of \$31 million in nonrefundable application fee and partial casino license fee payment.

"Is it reasonable? It might be that this bill would only have 15 days to live on because if nobody comes up with that amount of dollars in 15 days, then the bill is no good," he said.

The duration of the exclusive license would also have to be reduced to a maximum of 40 or 55 years, so as not to violate Articles 11 and 12 of the NMI Constitution, depending on whether the 2,000-room hotel will be on a private or public land. The bill allows up to 80-year exclusive casino license.

"I am not taking any position at this point. I'm just saying these are the things that I found to be of concern in the bill. If the bill would be approved, it would have to take into account those concerns," Inos said.

The governor also made clear that he would not support a qualifying certificate—a tax abatement program—for casino operation.

Inos said upon review of the bill, "it appears that this bill is a spinoff of the bill that was previously introduced and

shelved in the Senate." That also provided an exclusive license "but for a longer period and lower payments."

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), main author of the bill, said it's not his intention to negatively impact or shut down Tinian Dynasty and related businesses, as the same question was posed to legal counsels during the House and Senate sessions.

He said if the bill's provision is not clear about this, he would make sure that it would be amended once the bill becomes law.

The bill's title says it is to "authorize, establish and regulate an exclusive gaming license within the Commonwealth." Others such as Tinian Dynasty and the Tinian mayor take this to mean that Tinian Dynasty may have to shut down the minute the governor signs the casino bill.

Demapan prefiled the casino legislation or House Bill 18-179 on Feb. 2. The bill was not referred to any committee nor underwent public hearing.

About a month later, on March 3, the House passed the bill with four sets of amendments. A day later, March 4, the Senate also passed the bill without amendment.

It was the first time in at least four years that the Senate

SBDC director Perry Inos Jr. There are limited seats so register by calling 664-3018. (PR)

CCA board meeting March 18

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamaranas.org. (PR)

Ancient Chamorro rock art presentation Sat.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council invites the public to a presentation on

ancient Chamorro rock art that will be held at the Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park on Saturday, March 15, beginning at 6pm. Visiting archaeologist Dr. Rosalind Hunter-Anderson will present the results of a recent pilot study to determine the composition and age of several ancient images that were painted on the walls of the Mahlac Cave in Guam. This presentation is open to the public and free of charge. Call Council staff at 235-4787 for more information. (Humanities Council)

KHS reading workshop for parents

Kagman High School will be having a workshop on how to help your child learn how to

use reading skills in all content areas. The event will take place on March 22, from 9am to 2:30pm, and April 10, from 5pm to 7:30pm, at the Kagman High School campus. There will be light refreshments and giveaways! For more information, contact the KHS main office at (670) 237-3840. (PR)

WSR School shirts now available for sale

The last day to order William S. Reyes Elementary School shirts will be on March 28, 2014, Friday. Youth sizes XS-L and adult S-XL will cost \$10. Adult XXL and XXXL will be \$12. Please stop by the main office to place your orders. Available colors: Carolina blue, navy blue, royal blue, pink, yellow, gray, and black. (PR)

CASINO

From Page 1

have to respect that. I don't think it's right that we do a Commonwealth [gaming] law that would pre-empt the operating casino, especially when they are already in existence," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* at yesterday's unveiling of the Kagman Fire Station's new name.

This comes days after Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino representative Chan Chun Wai and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz separately wrote the governor a letter, asking him to veto the casino bill. They said the bill is "incredibly poorly drafted," with many key provisions "very difficult to understand," and would force Dynasty to shut down.

The bill's title itself states that it is to authorize, establish, and regulate "an exclusive gaming license within the Commonwealth."

Other officials and community members are also raising concerns about the bill's chilling effects on poker machines outside hotels on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, video lottery and electronic gaming. The last two were allowed by law only a few months ago and have yet to get off the ground.

Inos himself noted yester-

day the 15-day deadline, upon the bill's signing, for any investor to come up with a total of \$31 million in nonrefundable application fee and partial casino license fee payment.

"Is it reasonable? It might be that this bill would only have 15 days to live on because if nobody comes up with that amount of dollars in 15 days, then the bill is no good," he said.

The duration of the exclusive license would also have to be reduced to a maximum of 40 or 55 years, so as not to violate Articles 11 and 12 of the NMI Constitution, depending on whether the 2,000-room hotel will be on a private or public land. The bill allows up to 80-year exclusive casino license.

"I am not taking any position at this point. I'm just saying these are the things that I found to be of concern in the bill. If the bill would be approved, it would have to take into account those concerns," Inos said.

The governor also made clear that he would not support a qualifying certificate—a tax abatement program—for casino operation.

Inos said upon review of the bill, "it appears that this bill is a spinoff of the bill that was previously introduced and

passed a casino bill from the House. The Senate rejected in one form or another casino bills from the House. Saipan voters also twice rejected a casino question on the ballot; the last time was in 2007.

Ed Propst, a private citizen, said yesterday that concerned community members are organizing a forum that would allow anyone—either those opposing or supporting the casino bill—to be able to ask questions of House and Senate members, as well as the governor, about the bill.

Propst said the questions will have to be written and would be read by a moderator. The planned forum would set ground rules. There won't be slogans or posters advocating or opposing casino on Saipan.

"We would be inviting the governor and members of the Legislature, especially the bill's author, to sit down with us and answer written questions from the public. Since obviously, there was no public input and no public hearing was done on the bill before it was passed, this would be a good time to ask questions and clarifications whether you support or oppose casinos on Saipan," he said.

He clarified that the forum would neither be an anti-casino or pro-casino event.

million, minus the \$256,704 in net assets recorded in the beginning of fiscal year 2013.

Ada said that if the corporation successfully collects everything in its collectibles, "I believe we will be financially sufficient."

When asked how much the corporation needs to run the agency, it was disclosed that CHCC needs between \$40 million to \$44 million.

"With this number, I believe we would definitely be meeting the standards of Medicare," Ada said.

Board members agreed that, for the corporation to continue to survive, the government has to put in its share. They cited the meager budget allocated for CHCC since its inception in 2011.

part of Public Works secretary during the term of former governor Froilan C. Tenorio, a Democrat at the time. He was later named commissioner of the then-Marianas Public Lands Authority under former Republican governor Juan N. Babauta's time. Deleon Guerrero chaired the Committee to Elect Babauta in the 2009 Republican primary. He was later named CPA executive director by the Fitial administration until he was removed by the board of directors last year.

Taisague said yesterday that the Democrats will also be endorsing tonight the candidates for lieutenant governor and delegate. Former Commerce secretary Andrew Salas earlier indicated his willingness to run for delegate, so far the only individual this election year to challenge incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Deleon Guerrero is among the up to four individuals eyeing the governor's post this year. The other three are incumbent Gov. Eloy S. Inos of the Republican Party; former House speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, an independent; and former governor Juan N. Babauta, also a Republican whose request for a primary was shot down, but has yet to decide whether he would still run as an independent.

With the gubernatorial race getting crowded, it would be harder to get at least 50-percent plus 1 of the votes cast, setting the CNMI up for another gubernatorial race.

Yesterday's announcement from Ivan Blanco, chairman of the GOP Central Committee's public relations team, brings to eight the officially endorsed GOP candidates for the November 2014 race, including the gubernatorial tandem of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan); Precinct 2 candidates House floor leader Ralph Demapan and Rep. John Paul Sablan; and Saipan mayoralty candidate Joe Agluto Reyes.

The GOP will hold a kickoff rally on March 23, Sunday, at the Susupe basketball courts.

see the bodies.

Qing Ying Zheng said they will have the bodies cremated in Guam before bringing them to China.

The family is offering a \$5,000 cash reward to anyone who can provide information leading to the arrest of the person or persons behind the killing.

Police have classified the death of the victims as a double homicide. The two reportedly died due to smoke inhalation as a result of the fire that razed their house to the ground.

HOSPITAL

From Page 1

and adjustments.

It was disclosed that of the \$41 million billed last year, the amount paid was \$8.5 million; writeoff adjustment was at \$13 million; and deductibles was at \$1.9 million.

According to acting corporation CFO Cora Ada, actual collection last fiscal year was at nearly \$30 million. Each month, she said, GMCA's collection averaged between \$25,000 and \$26,000. Management, she said, is also diligent in its collection efforts to improve the agency's cash flow.

Because part of the huge billing amount is for Medicare reimbursement, Dela Cruz

pointed out: "It's not just the Medicare. I am talking about the private sources, co-payments, people who come in and receive medical services but yet walk out the door without clearing the bills."

Dela Cruz reiterated the importance of the electronic health record system that would bring efficiency to the agency.

Interim corporation CEO Esther Muñá said that nothing has been written off in the \$41 million billed in fiscal year 2013. What's usually put in as deductibles and adjustments relate to the Medicare rate, she added.

Board member Anthony Raho also raised concern on the growing amount of collectibles, particularly from private insurance companies. Ada said that collection from these compa-

nies is also being hampered by the "reconciling process" between parties when an account is denied or disputed.

Operating in deficit

According to Ada, CHCC incurred a \$6-million deficit in fiscal year 2013, which means it spent more than what it earned. This shortfall, she disclosed, was primarily due to the corporation's debt with its vendors.

The corporation recorded \$30.4 million in total operating revenues against actual operating expenses of \$37.9 million—an operating loss of \$7.4 million—in fiscal year 2013.

Because CHCC also registered an additional \$1.087 million in non-operating income, this lowered the deficit to \$6.399

million, minus the \$256,704 in net assets recorded in the beginning of fiscal year 2013.

Ada said that if the corporation successfully collects everything in its collectibles, "I believe we will be financially sufficient."

When asked how much the corporation needs to run the agency, it was disclosed that CHCC needs between \$40 million to \$44 million.

"With this number, I believe we would definitely be meeting the standards of Medicare," Ada said.

Board members agreed that, for the corporation to continue to survive, the government has to put in its share. They cited the meager budget allocated for CHCC since its inception in 2011.

The family did not allow the couple's minor children, ages 13 and 5 years old, to

pened to the legs because they don't believe that the fire alone would destroy the legs.

Aside from Qing Ying Zheng and her brother and his wife, family members who saw the bodies were the parents of victim Qing Xiu Zheng, and the father of victim Guo Huang Xu.

The family did not allow the couple's minor children, ages 13 and 5 years old, to

see the bodies.

Qing Ying Zheng said they will have the bodies cremated in Guam before bringing them to China.

The family is offering a \$5,000 cash reward to anyone who can provide information leading to the arrest of the person or persons behind the killing.

Police have classified the death of the victims as a double homicide. The two reportedly died due to smoke inhalation as a result of the fire that razed their house to the ground.

see the bodies.

Qing Ying Zheng said they will have the bodies cremated in Guam before bringing them to China.

The family did not allow the couple's minor children, ages 13 and 5 years old, to

CDA approves \$640K tax rebates for SeaTouch in 10 years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority has approved to provide \$640,000 in tax benefits across 10 years to SeaTouch, LLC under the government's qualifying certificate program.

CDA's recommendation now awaits Gov. Eloy S. Inos' approval. He has 45 days to decide on the matter.

SeaTouch will invest some \$1.125 million for its business, which aims to provide interactive marine activities, marine animal encounters, and associated activities.

This will require building a floating dock behind the Fiesta Re-

sort & Spa Saipan that will extend about 140 feet from the shoreline. It will also set up a sales office for marine and aqua tours and related activities on the ground floor of the hotel's north wing.

CDA has recommended giving SeaTouch a 20-percent rebate on the business gross revenue tax for years one to 10.

Also, SeaTouch will be given a 30 percent rebate on BGRT multiplied by the ratio of total resident employees, plus an additional 30 percent rebate on BGRT for the total resident managerial employees it will hire for the business.

Besides these tax benefits, the company is also recommended to be given a 20 percent rebate on BGRT on local purchases of

goods and services used in the operations of the business during the years one to 10.

According to CDA, Year 1 begins on the day of full business operations.

"The BGRT rebate shall be capped at \$640,000. If at any time during the 10-year BGRT rebate period, the rebate benefit exceeds \$640,000, the rebate benefit will immediately and automatically cease," states the CDA's recommendation.

The company will be required to meet several conditions, such as compliance with both CNMI and federal tax laws and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

To encourage high school and college students to pursue edu-

cation and training in marine biology, marine recreation, the tourism industry, or other related fields, SeaTouch has agreed to design and implement a scholarship program for CNMI residents. Plans

for this program shall be submitted to CDA for approval within three months after the effective date of the QC.

If the governor approves the QC, SeaTouch will become

the fifth company that presently benefits from the program. The others are the Sand Castle Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Bridge Capital LLC, and Saipan Laulau Development, Inc.

Friday to begin serving his eight-month prison sentence for domestic violence.

Wiseman earlier issued an arrest warrant for the suspended lawyer after learning that he did not report to Corrections on Feb. 15. Law enforcement agents failed to locate him.

Last year, Atalig pleaded guilty to assault and battery, two counts of disturbing the peace, and criminal contempt. He was sentenced to eight months in prison but Wiseman granted his request to delay reporting to DOC. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Ripple earns Professional Engineer designation

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan resident James William "Bill" K. Ripple was recently certified as a Professional Engineer, or PE, in the CNMI. He took the California Civil Special Seismic Exam in October 2013 and just two months ago received his positive exam results. Immediately after receiving his results, Ripple applied for a CNMI PE license, and obtained his official license last month.

Prior to taking the California Civil Special Seismic Exam, Ripple passed the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam while pursuing his bachelor's degree in civil engineering at San Jose State University.



Ripple

He credits his parents as his biggest inspirations for pursuing a career in engineering. "At a young age, my parents introduced me to the heavy equipment and construction industry. My parents always encouraged me to pursue hobbies that involved engineering."

Ripple, a 2004 Mount Carmel School alumnus, said that his high school career gave him direction and exposed him to opportunities for higher education. He considers pursuing his bachelor's degree as his biggest challenge since he was competing with others well versed with the curriculum.

He encourages students thinking about pursuing an engineering career to take as many AP classes in math and science. He said that taking these steps in high school will allow them to easily transition into college math and science courses.

"Math has a reputation for being challenging and steers people away from majors involving any math. If the youth are motivated to pursue a career in engineering, they will find that math has broad and practical applications."

As a PE, Ripple now holds significant responsibilities, along with other PEs in the CNMI, such as preparing, signing, and sealing engineering plans and drawings.

He currently works as project manager at Hofschneider Engineering, LLC, which offers general civil and structural engineering design and a wide range of project and construction administrative services.

Ripple told *Saipan Tribune* that he originally planned to take all his exams in the CNMI. However, the CNMI board is no longer affiliated with the National Council of Examiners for

Ripple is the son of Jim and Agnes Ripple.

Ripple is the son of Jim and Agnes Ripple.

PICKS OF THE WEEK 3

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Public warned: Dangerous surf until Friday

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management issued a high surf and small craft advisory yesterday to warn the public of dangerous surf that is expected to last until Friday.

According to the agency,

fresh to strong trade winds and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft for the next couple of days.

The high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm Fri-

day, while the small craft advisory will also be in effect until 6pm Friday.

Hazardous surf of 7 to 10 feet is expected along north facing reefs through Friday afternoon.

Winds of 20 to 30 knots and

combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through at least today, Thursday. Conditions should slowly improve on Friday.

Mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels,

should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving

harbors and inlets. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. (PR)

10 Saipan mayor's staff complete safety course



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Employees of the Saipan Mayor's Office show off the certificates they got after a 16-hour construction safety course. Front row from left, Leonardo Babauta, Jesse Taitano, Brian Blas, Michael Tomokane, and Antonio Reyes. Second row from left, Lawrence Fleming, Michael Cruz, director of operations Daniel Kintol, Zachary Reyes, and Gregorio Tebit.

Ten of the Saipan Mayor's Office staff completed a 16-hour construction safety course on March 4 to 5.

The two-day course is intended for managers, supervi-

sors, and safety officers with safety and health responsibilities and employee safety and health awareness on a construction project or job site. It is an overview of the Army Corps of

Engineers Construction Safety Regulations and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Construction Standard.

It is designed to assist construction companies and national and local governments ensure that employees have a safe place to work, free from safety and health hazards that can cause injury, illness and death at a construction jobsite.

The objective of the course was for the staff to understand construction safety program management, general site conditions, personal protective equipment, electrical safety, hand and power tool safety, material handling, storage and disposal.

To complete the course the

staff had to pass the final exam with a score of 70. Upon completion of the course, the 10 employees were presented certificates of completion and an Occupational Safety and Health Administration wallet card.

The two-day course was led by the Professional Training technology, Inc. and cost \$225 per person.

In a statement, the mayor's office said it is proactive in furthering their staff's training. "This is an important initiative that the mayor had created for the staff to further their knowledge and experience."

Other training that its staff will soon undergo will be backhoe, equipment, and other safety training. (Jayson Camacho)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone) For Carmen Safeway Enterprises, Inc.

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Carmen Safeway Enterprises Inc. is requesting to rezone lots 006 H 11, 006 H 12, and 006 H 15 from "Village Commercial" to "Mixed Commercial" zoning district to operate a funeral home and crematory services. These areas are located along Beach Road, across from Meena's clothing store and Aquarius Beach Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, April 3rd 2014
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office conference room,
2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, April 2nd 2014. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

INVITATION FOR BID

IFB NO.: IFB14-HSEM-063

Submission/Opening Date: March 28, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"YARD MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY"

Prospective bidders may retrieve a copy of the complete contents of the Invitation for Bids at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The CNMI government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
Special Assistant for Homeland Security

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
Director, P&S

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Wanted: Daniel Q. Terlaje

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a wanted person. On Tuesday, March 4, 2014, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio signed an arrest warrant for Vincent Daniel Q. Terlaje, 34. The charges include receiving stolen property and illegal possession of a controlled substance crystal methamphetamine. Cash bail has been set for \$15,000.

Police officers have searched for and have been unable to locate Terlaje. His residence and family have been contacted and he is still at large.

Terlaje is described as a Chamorro male, 5'4" tall and



weighs 120 lbs, with brown hair and brown eyes, has a mustache and may have a short goatee, with multiple tattoos.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (NMI Crime Stoppers)

Governor's Office change phone numbers

Due to a system upgrade, there has been a change in telephone numbers for the Offices of the Governor & Lt. Governor as well as most offices located in the Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building, Capital Hill, Saipan. As a result, telephone numbers for these offices with a 664 prefix may no longer be functional.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider ask for the public's cooperation and understanding during this transition period and extend their sincerest apology for any inconvenience caused by the telephone number change.

To contact any of the Governor/Lt. Governor's Offices by telephone, call the Governor's Office operator at (670) 237-2200. (PR)

6 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged six Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Affected sites are the Aqua Resort Hotel, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Kanoa Resort, Chalan Kanoa District #2 drainage, and Hopwood Junior High School beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Shirley's FC offers hot lunch on March 20

Shirley's Football Club is organizing a hot lunch fundraising activity this March 20 to help defray certain expenses of the club. The hot lunch bento costs \$5 and will include chicken pork adobo, chopsuey, steamed rice, and bottled water. Buyers will also get a chance to win Shirley's Coffee Shop gift certificates, Fiesta Resort & Spa brunch and room accommodations, Kanoa Resort room stays, and many more surprises. The hot lunch bento can be picked up from 11am to 2pm at the Supe Beach Park next Thursday. (PR)

UOG/Becker Professional Education CPA prep course begins April 19

The University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration and Becker Professional Education offer a course focusing on Auditing, Assurance and Business Environment and Concepts in the accounting field to prepare individuals to take the U.S. Certified Public Accountant examination. BA693A-70 Auditing, Assurance and Business Environment and Concepts is a three graduate credit course that runs from April 19 to June 21, 2014, on Saturdays from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Zeny Nace, CPA, is the instructor and the course will be held in the SBPA Bldg., 262 Camacho Graduate classroom on the UOG campus.

The deadline to register is April 1, 2014. Interested individuals must apply to the UOG Graduate School. For more information contact UOG's Professional and International Programs office at 735-2600/1, email ctaitano@uguam.uog.edu or rsocampo@uguam.uog.edu or visit www.uog.edu/pip. (UOG)

Inos glad that Fitial plans to return

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he's glad to learn that former governor Benigno R. Fitial plans to come back to the CNMI on his own volition to face the charges filed against him, hoping that this would put "closure" to the issues that Inos said have split the community. He also hopes that the Commonwealth can move forward from this.

Inos said the judicial process would take its course.

"I want to see this thing put to a close... rather than keep having this thing hold us back and distract us from the real issues that we really want to address. It looks like this thing would take care of itself," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Fitial, through attorney Stephen Nutting, said he wants to return to the CNMI to face the criminal charges filed against him, saying he has no desire to become a fugitive.

This comes days after the House of Representatives adopted a resolution asking Inos to initiate the extradition for Fitial. Inos later said he would do so once the Office of the Attorney General recommends it, but it would be in the form



Fitial

of a letter to the U.S. State Department, since international extradition is a federal process rather than a local one.

The OAG has not come up with any recommendation, and Fitial's court filing could render any request for extradition moot.

Inos said he's glad that Fitial plans to come back.

"Because that way, it's easier for both himself and us, and I guess everybody else. That he's coming back here on his

own is something that we're pleased because we don't have to spend government resources to bring him back here," Inos said.

He added that "a lot of precedence has been set here."

Despite what had transpired in the past years, Inos said he still considers Fitial a "friend."

They have been friends since the Trust Territory days, and earlier than that.

Fitial, 68, said he has "no desire to become a fugitive; forever unable to see the family and friends I have acquired throughout my lifetime. He said this in a declaration that he executed in the Philippines dated Feb. 27, 2014.

That declaration was filed with the Superior Court on Friday, through Nutting, ask-

ing the Superior Court to quash the arrest warrant that Associate Judge David Wiseman issued against him.

In March 2013, the Office of the Public Auditor filed seven criminal charges against Fitial for his role in shielding former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

Fitial executed the declaration that he wants to return to the CNMI about a week after Buckingham was found guilty of all public corruption charges except one. Buckingham was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended.

Fitial said his own health reasons and that of his father-in-law's medical condition prevented him from returning to the CNMI sooner.

But lawmakers who voted to impeach him said Fitial showed flagrant disregard of the law for not communicating anything to the court or the CNMI government for a year.

Fitial resigned on Feb. 20, 2013, days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate. The House impeached him on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. Fitial is the first governor of the CNMI or any U.S. territory to be impeached by the House, and the first CNMI governor to quit his post.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: March 7, 2014
CLOSE DATE: March 14, 2014

POSITION: Cook (Mandarin, Korean, Western)
SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Formal training/education in culinary arts required. Minimum 2 years of experience in related field preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.

OPEN DATE: March 7, 2014
CLOSE DATE: March 14, 2014

POSITION: Server
SALARY: Minimum

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: March 7, 2014
CLOSE DATE: March 14, 2014

POSITION: Lifeguard
SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be a required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality

OPEN DATE: March 7, 2014
CLOSE DATE: March 14, 2014

POSITION: Bellhop
SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. A valid Drivers License is required. Must be 25 years old or older. Experience as a hotel bellhop/ guest service preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile.

OPEN DATE: March 7, 2014
CLOSE DATE: March 14, 2014

POSITION: Mechanic & Electrician,
SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training is required. Two years of experience in related field strongly preferred.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Restaurant General Manager (1)

Classification: Full-Time, Exempt, 50 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Area General Manager (AGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

Prioritize, directs and coordinates the activities of the restaurant to continually strengthen its Brand position and maximize its sales and profitability.

Essential Accountabilities

- People:
 - Achieves management staffing and development goals to plan
 - Has active succession plan in place for all positions
 - Improves employee morale through monitoring and showing urgency in caring for employees.
 - Improves staff performance through frequent personal and team coaching
 - Reduces incidences and claims by making safety everyone's top priority
 - Ensures compliance with all applicable laws
- Financials:
 - Achieves sales and profit targets to plan
 - Corrects daily financial deficiencies with urgency.
 - Drives year-over-year growth in sales and profit
- Operations:
 - Delivers/improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
 - Raises the bar in operational execution
 - Assets:
 - Corrects all asset deficiencies with urgency
 - Eliminates any potential for liability with urgency
 - Availability:
 - Open availability
 - Minimum 5 day, 50 hour work week.
 - Vehicle required.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Crew Member (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities

Performs a variety of duties that may include the duties of a Telephone Person, Cashier, Register Person, Dough Person, Cut & Pack Cook, Maketable Pizza Preparer, Receiving & Stocking and Lot Person.

TELEPHONE PERSON

Essential Functions

- Answer telephone quickly within Pizza Hut guidelines.
- Clearly communicate to customers all specials and promotions.
- Accurately record customer orders on to POS system.
- Communicate to make table personnel any special requests.
- Keep counter and work area clean and organized at all times.

CASHIER

Essential Functions

- Ensures an accurate accounting of all transactions, collections and disbursements during work shift.
- Receives cash drawer at beginning of work shift and verifies the accuracy by counting money in cash drawer.
- Obtains and reviews information regarding price changes or menu specials.
- Greets as they enter the dining area or carryout area.
- May take guest food and beverage orders and give orders to kitchen staff.
- Itemizes and totals guests' food and beverage purchases or may collect food and beverage checks from guests and ring them to the register.
- Collects cash, checks, or charge payments from guests. Makes change for cash transactions, verifies identification for checks and prepares charge voucher for credit card purchases.
- Counts money, checks, and charge payments in cash drawer at end of shift.
- May reconcile checks, cash receipts and charge sales with total sales to verify accuracy of transactions.
- Stocks counters, display refrigerators, salad bar, and steam table neatly, accurately and in a timely fashion as per menu.
- Checks to ensure that all display foods are presented attractively as per standards.
- Displays food under appropriate hot or cold conditions as per standards.
- Keeps display equipment clean and free of debris during meal service, as assigned.
- Cleans workstation thoroughly before leaving area assignment.
- Relays relevant comments received from customers directly to supervisor.

REGISTER PERSON

Essential Functions

- Responsible for providing quick and efficient service to customers.
- Greets customers and takes their food and beverage orders.
- Accurately records customer's orders on to POS system and computes the amount of the bill.
- Serves drinks from dispensing machines or makes and serves hot drinks from water heater or coffee maker.
- Picks up food items from serving bar or storage area.
- Places items on tray or in take-out containers.
- Checks orders to ensure that guest is receiving a complete and correct order.
- Informs kitchen staff of shortages or special requests.
- Collects payment from guest and makes change.
- Helps with preparation of food in kitchen.
- Helps with getting back up food on line
- Washes dishes.
- Informs manager of stock levels.
- Restocks drink station/supplies, paper.
- Checks supplies in counter area - napkins, crushed peppers and cheese, and restocks items to ensure a sufficient supply throughout shift.
- Wipes off front counter with cleaning solution and clean cloth. Keeps counter and floor clean at all times.
- Cleans and restocks dining room.
- Takes trash out to dumpster.
- Performs long-term maintenance on sidewalks, walls, and equipment.
- Sweeps and keeps exterior lot clean at all times throughout the shift.

DOUGH PERSON

Essential Functions

- Responsible for dough preparedness as prescribed from Manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures.
- Selects and transports raw items to work area and back. Stores finished products in proper places.
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare items as procedures require - dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, buntomatic, retarder and dough roller.

CUT & PACK COOK

Essential Functions

- Checks workstations for presence of small equipment, assemblers, materials, paper goods and condiments.
- Responsible for product assembly, checks appearance and calls for preparation times for all orders.
- Monitors oven setting according to Pizza Hut standards.
- Checks all finished products to ensure compliance with Pizza Hut standards.
- Communicates with make-table personnel, front line personnel and MIC for quality controls and feedback.

Shift Manager (2)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Assistant Restaurant General Manager (ARGM)
Restaurant General Manager (RGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

The Shift Manager reports directly to the Restaurant General Manager. The SM assists the RGM in the achievement of the restaurant's people, operational and financial goals.

Essential Accountabilities

- People:
 - Assists RGM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
 - Assists RGM in monitoring/improving employee morale
 - Personally coaches staff
 - Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
 - Ensures compliance with all applicable laws
- Financial
 - Assists RGM in achieving sales and profits to plan.
 - Displays urgency to correct daily financial control deficiencies
 - Strives to drive year-upon-year growth in sales and profits
- Operations:
 - Delivers/ improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
 - Raises the bar in operational execution
 - Assets:
 - Ensures facilities are maintained to franchise standard on a daily basis
 - Displays awareness of asset deficiencies and urgency to correct them
 - Displays awareness and urgency to eliminate any potential for liability
 - Availability
 - Open availability
 - Minimum 5 day, 40 - 45 hour work week.
 - Vehicle required.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Delivery Driver (1)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week

Part Time, Non-Exempt, less than 32 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC) / Dispatcher

Summary of Responsibilities

Delivers customer's order in a timely and safe manner within accordance of Pizza Hut guidelines and compliance with State and Federal traffic laws.

Essential Functions

- Drives competently and complies with all traffic laws.
- Delivers products in a timely manner with accuracy and courteousness.
- Collects checks, cash or credit card slips to properly tender order.
- Performs secondary duties such as washing dishes, cleaning, prep and cooking duties.
- Keeps car and work area clean and organized throughout shift.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience

High school diploma preferred.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills

Must be at least 18 years of age. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license with a minimum of 2 years driving experience. Must have an acceptable driving record. Must provide own insured vehicle for deliveries. Able to read and follow road maps. Must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. Must be able to communicate clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for a minimum of four hours. Requires driving, standing and walking for most of the workday. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. occasionally.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors

Inos prefers RFP over sole-sourcing of Tinian land

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Inos

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he prefers that the Department of Public Lands issues a request for proposal rather than enter into a sole-source lease deal with an investor to develop Kastiyu on Tinian. This comes on the heels of Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and the Tinian Municipal Council's request to DPL to negotiate a sole-source lease agreement with Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. to develop the area.

Mega Stars Overseas, which has already been investing in

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, plans to build 1,000-room hotel on Kastiyu, a scenic Tinian area atop Carolinas Plateau.

The planned investment in the Punta Kastiyu project alone is estimated at \$200 million.

"I don't have any problem with sole-sourcing it if that proves to be a good deal for Tinian. But it's not a bad idea to put it up through RFP, not a problem either. It only takes

about 30 days, and let's see what's out there in the market," the governor told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Inos said DPL also issued RFPs for pieces of prime property in Marpi and San Antonio, and was able to review and choose from different proposals from a number of investors.

Tinian officials said Tinian needs more hotel rooms, and Mega Stars has already "proven their worth."

"Because of their proven commitment, may we suggest that Mega Stars' request to lease public lands on Kastiyu as an international gaming destination," the mayor said.

be given sole source priority. They have made a significant financial investment in the CNMI and deserve our full support for expansion," the mayor and Tinian Municipal Council officials said in a March 7 letter to DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio.

In a statement yesterday, Dela Cruz reiterated the points of their letter to DPL.

"Mega Stars has earned the respect of the people of Tinian. We owe it to them to do our best to support their efforts to develop Tinian and the CNMI as an international gaming destination," the mayor said.

Frances admits taking items from Kim's apartment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Frances Quichocho resumed her testimony Tuesday afternoon in the racketeering lawsuit filed against her and her husband, attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, by businesswoman Jung Ja Kim.

Frances admitted that she and her husband took furniture and other items when they moved out from the unit they were renting from Kim in 2010. Frances, however, stated that the items they took were stuff she either purchased or were given to her as gifts by Kim.

Frances' testimony came shortly after their rebuttal expert witness, Guam attorney Jacqueline Taitano Terlaje, completed her testimony.

Frances said they moved to the Sign Arts Building in San Jose upon Kim's encouragement after their rented house in Dandan was burglarized in April 2008. She said they brought furniture and purchased many other items needed for their apartment and her husband's law office.

Shown many receipts by her lawyer, Michael Dotts, Frances identified the receipts as for items that she bought such as a sink, plumbing materials, air-conditioning unit, lumber, plywood, and several others.

Frances said she paid Kim \$50 for the mirror and \$150 for the sink. She said Kim gave her a bedroom set, a leather couch, and karaoke machine as gifts.

Kim earlier testified, among other things, that when the Quichochoes left Signs Arts Building between January and February 2010, the couple took the furniture, and other items—all worth about \$23,500—that she provided them. She said one of the items allegedly stolen were the couch and the sink.

Kim also claimed that the Quichochoes refused to pay her \$21,077.42 in rental for their law office and the apartment.

Terlaje completed her testimony late Tuesday afternoon as the Quichochoes' rebuttal expert witness.

In her report, Terlaje concluded that it is unlikely that there was a violation of the Model

Rules of Professional Conduct as the record does not support a finding that Ramon Quichocho had a sexual relationship with his then client, Kim. Terlaje stated that there is no clear and convincing evidence to support Kim's allegations of rape and consensual sex with Quichocho and Frances.

Terlaje also pointed out that the report of Kim's expert witness, Guam assistant attorney general Benjamin M. Abrams, was a limited review of the record, and did not include the volumes of depositions and formal responses provided by Ramon Quichocho in the disciplinary proceeding, "all which when taken together as a whole, provide a more objective review of the evidence available."

During cross-examination by Kim's counsel, Robert T. Torres, Terlaje stated that Ramon Quichocho worked for Kim in an organizational capacity and that she does not recall Ramon Quichocho representing Kim's in his individual capacity.

Torres then showed a document prepared by Ramon

Quichocho on Nov. 2, 2007, in which the lawyer wrote that Kim was his client. Terlaje said she does not recall if that letter was among those over 4,000 pages of documents that the Quichochoes gave her to prepare her report.

Torres showed a couple more documents that Ramon Quichocho himself prepared, and Terlaje replied that she did not dispute based on those documents that Kim was his client.

Terlaje also pointed out that in her report, credibility has no bearing on her and that she just looked at the facts presented to her at that time.

Terlaje is currently a member and chairperson of the ad hoc disciplinary committee for the Supreme Court of Guam. The Quichochoes retained her to provide a rebuttal opinion on attorney conduct and the application of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct to the facts in the case.

Abrams had already testified. In his report, he concluded that Ramon Quichocho not only committed ethical transgressions but likely even criminal acts.

Frances said her purpose was to find out if her husband was having an affair, as Kim kept telling her.

Thompson said that when Kim denied that Ramon was her boyfriend, Frances should have stopped deceiving Kim, whom she considered a friend and family member.

When asked why she had to pretend to be Ramon Quichocho instead of going straight to Kim, Frances replied that it's different because it's hard to ask a good friend direct questions.

Frances said that Ramon Quichocho never told her that he's having an affair with Kim. She also stated that, except for Kim, nobody else told her that her husband was having an affair.

Kim earlier testified that Ramon Quichocho, her then counsel, raped her twice in 2008 while she was on medication due to depression and anxiety. She also alleged that she, Quichocho, and Frances twice had a threesome while she was drunk and under medication for depression and anxiety. Kim said the threesome was Frances' idea.

FRANCES

From Page 2

her daughter, and Kim went on a trip to the U.S. mainland. During a visit to Las Vegas where they shared a room, she claims being awakened when Kim hugged her and began touching her breasts. She said she told Kim to stop. Frances said that Kim apologized and promised not do it again. Frances said she didn't sleep well after that encounter.

After that incident, Frances said she became reserved and kept her distance from Kim but still considered her a friend.

When asked by her lawyer, Michael Dotts, if she told her husband about the incident, Frances said she didn't because she felt embarrassed.

She said the second time was between July and August 2008 on Saipan when Kim called her to come to her office in San Jose because she had a headache. As she was massaging Kim's forehead, Frances said that Kim touched her between the legs.

Frances said she told Kim

that she left her husband, and daughter at a park to help her and that she should not do that. "I was so upset. I went back to the park," she said.

The third encounter, Frances said, happened in their house in September 2008 when she had a severe migraine.

Frances said that Kim came inside the room where she was resting, got beside her on the bed, and again touched her breasts. She said she told Kim not do that because she had a headache. Kim reportedly said sorry and left the house.

Frances also recalled an incident in September 2008 when Kim and Dr. Larry Hocog went to Club Chicago and she and Ramon Quichocho followed them. At the club, Frances said she saw Kim kissing one of the dancers and that Kim later disappeared with the dancer.

In latter part of September 2008, she said, Kim began telling her not to trust men in general, but a month later began urging Frances not to trust her husband.

Frances said she started to doubt her husband after Kim told

her that he was having an affair. "I didn't see any indication that Ray was having an affair. But I got suspicious," she said.

The last straw, Frances said, was on Jan. 24, 2009, when she and Kim were shopping in Guam. Frances said that Kim came to her bed, hugged her from behind, and began kissing her nape.

Frances said she freaked out because she thought that Kim's prior sexual advances had already been forgotten. "It made me so mad. I told her you cannot do that to me. I told her we're just friends," she said, adding that she got so scared she went outside the hotel room for some fresh air.

Since that incident, Frances said she had avoided Kim.

During cross-examination, Thompson showed several chats with Kim in 2008, in which Frances claimed she pretended she was Ramon Quichocho.

"Yes it's mine. This is what I did. These chats are all mine," said Frances when Thompson showed her copies of chats in which the sender told Kim "I love you" several times.



March 13, 2006

'Stop land compensation, freeze homestead filings'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced on Friday plans to stop payment of land compensation and to reinstate the moratorium on homestead applications. Fitial said during his weekly press conference that only \$88,000 now remained of the \$28-million fund allocated to compensate private landowners whose properties had been seized by government for infrastructure projects and other public purposes. According to the governor, there are a little over 100 landowners who had benefited from the land compensation fund. At least 193 other claimants have yet to receive compensation.

Saipan Southern High is 2006 mock trial champion

Saipan Southern High School took back the title of mock trial champion after it bested Marianas Baptist Academy in a close competition at the CNMI Supreme Court Saturday afternoon. With the victory, Saipan Southern High will represent the CNMI in the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on May 11-13, 2006. Aside from bagging the title, two Saipan Southern High team members also got two top awards. Marilou Gariguez, a veteran in the tournament and the team's captain, was adjudged most effective defense attorney. Dong Hwi Shim was named best defense witness.

March 13, 2007

Korean investments growing in CNMI

Saipan World Resort, LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, Townhouse, Payless Store, 99 Cents. They all have one thing in common: They are owned by Korean investors in the CNMI. Korean investments have noticeably grown lately, with recent purchases of major businesses, real estate properties, and setting up of new stores in almost every corner of the island. Park Soon, president of the Korean Association of Saipan, said this is an indication of renewed interests in the CNMI among Koreans. "They like it here. A lot of them are coming here to invest," said Park in an interview yesterday.

New driving school launched

A driving school recently opened on Saipan, making it the first on the island and fulfilling the intent of Public Law 15-25, which requires the completion of a driver's education course for first-time driver's license applicants. Richard Puhalla, a licensed driving instructor from Ohio, launched the Driver Training Academy, which is located on the 6th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, formerly the Nauru Building. "We are now accepting students. This business came about when they passed a law here last year, requiring first-time driver applicants to complete a driving education program," said Puhalla. He said the curriculum of the academy is designed to fulfill the 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of driving practice as required by law.

March 13, 2008

NMI govt rallies aid vs new federalization bill

The Fitial administration is soliciting the help of the 16th Legislature and the local business community to fend off a proposed federal takeover of the CNMI's immigration system. Reacting to reports that a new omnibus bill will be introduced in the U.S. Senate in a matter of weeks, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary Charles P. Reyes said the administration will not take this sitting down and hopes that its efforts will be supported by local lawmakers, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and other business groups.

Hopwood students win Academic Bowl tourney

For the first time in CNMI Academic Bowl Challenge history, a public school beat out other public and private schools to capture the crown. The Hopwood Junior High School bested nine other schools in this year's challenge. Hopwood Jr. High's coach Sharleen Crisostimo said that she was more nervous than her own students during the event. She added that she wanted to cry when she learned her school came in first. The Hopwood team included Lallane Guiao, eighth grade; Jessie Santos, seventh grade; Rachel Cabrera, eighth grade; Edu Banaag, eighth grade; and Marjorie Cuerdo, seventh grade. Crisostimo said the Hopwood team prepared for three weeks. For next year's challenge, the team will stick to its usual practice but for a much longer period.

Island Snapshots

SPRING CLEANING

Karidat Social Services held an Open House on Saturday, March 8, 2014, during which volunteers and Karidat staff cleared out the office for a planned makeover that will expand its food pantry and family services offices. Volunteers came from the San Vicente Parish Pre-Con and Confirmation classes, and Karidat staff and interns.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PRE-LAW PROGRAM

NMI Judiciary law clerk Clair Kelleher-Smith, right, talks about the CNMI Judiciary's pre-law program at the Rotary Club of Saipan on Tuesday, as fellow law clerk Nicole Torres, left, listens. The NMI Judiciary 2014 Summer Pre-Law Program will be held at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe from June 23, 2014 to July 11, 2014.

JAYSON CAMACHO

40 FOR 40 GIVEAWAY WINNER

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. staff member Janel Pangelinan, right, presents a prize for a year of free auto insurance to the company's third lucky "40 for 40 Giveaway" winner Anthony Guerrero, left. Forty for 40 means 40 winners in celebration of 40 years for a year of free auto insurance. Last drawing is slated for Dec. 15. You must be a policyholder of Pacifica to be entered to win. For information about Pacifica's "40 for 40 Giveaway" log on to www.pacificains.com/fortyforforty or call 234-6267/7722/7310.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 3rd birthday to Kimani Jaeri Cabrera Santos! Baby girl, we wish you a very big happy birthday! God bless you on your very special day and we love you very much. Greetings come from Grandma Chungi and Grandpa Chungi.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday to our pride and joy, Julianne Claire Bella! May you have a great year and glorious life ahead! Greetings from Papa and Mama.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Marisa Cepeda! Hope your day is filled with lots of love and laughter! May all your birthday wishes come true.

Opinion

Haga Adai!

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For Women's History Month, let's have immigration reform

By KATHY KO CHIN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Kathy Ko Chin is president and CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum.



As we celebrate Women's History Month, two women are on my mind: Grace Lee Boggs and Yuri Kochiyama. Both came from immigrant families, like mine, and helped advance the movement to empower women and people of color in our society.

Born in 1915 in Rhode Island to Chinese immigrant parents, Boggs has spent her life advocating for civil and labor rights. The Organization of Chinese Americans honored her with a lifetime achievement award, and she is a member of the National Women's Hall of Fame. Just last year, at 98, she was still promoting a recent book: *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century*. Kochiyama was born in 1921 in California to Japanese immigrant parents. After Pearl Harbor, her father was arrested and imprisoned for a month, where he was denied medical care. He died a few days after being released. Soon thereafter, Kochiyama and the rest of her family were forced into an internment camp.

An activist for decades, Kochiyama was an associate of Malcolm X—she was even with him in the Audubon Ballroom when he was gunned down. She cradled his bleeding body in her arms.

An advocate of Puerto Rican independence, she also campaigns for nuclear disarmament and stands up for Asian-Americans and women's rights.

Boggs and Kochiyama inspired me to dedicate myself to the cause of immigrant women.

Often at the margins, immigrant women are among the most exploited in our society. Toiling many hours in our factories, homes, fields and restaurants, many immigrant women cling to the lowest rungs of the economic ladder. They are often targets of discrimination and sexual violence in the workplace.

Many undocumented immigrant women are isolated and afraid. They often fear reporting the abuses they encounter because they could lose their jobs or, even worse, get deported and separated from their children.

Plus, many do not have access to decent health care. The Affordable Care Act excludes undocumented immigrants from coverage. And it keeps in place policies that lock out hard-working immigrants from the same affordable health care programs their tax-dollars support. These inequities are why I advocate so strongly for immigration reform—an issue that demands action from President Obama. While the Senate has answered such demands, now is the time for the House to do its part.

Just any bill will not do, however. We need immigration reform that is fair and puts all Americans—both aspiring and native-born alike—on a healthy path. Equal access to health insurance must be part of that equation.

As we celebrate women of character, courage and commitment this Women's History Month, let us not forget the many faceless, voiceless immigrant women who sacrifice for their families and our country every day.

In the footsteps of Grace Lee Boggs and Yuri Kochiyama, let's not let yet another year go by without making comprehensive immigration reform a reality.



Happy is what we make it

If you've walked through a door that has a sign like our title, you've been to a place at Oleai where they serve you a decent piece of crepes with fillings of your choice. Unless one goes to the upscale hotels in Shenyang, crepe is not normal fare on the menu. You can tell that I seldom walk into those upscale places since my last crepe was gazillion years ago in Montmarte when I thought I could survive August in Paris for only the foreigners are in the city and the rest of the natives head out to the coast. I was on my way to three months of curry in Maharashtra so the flat thin pancake went down well.

It was on Saipan's Friday night that I moseyed over to a newly opened eating place run by an acquaintance and his Russian bride. I was there early so I did not get the soon-to-be spirited crowd who normally try to arrest a hangover in the morning. The place is obviously for the dining crowd only as it closes its doors after 9pm, I was told.

There, I ran into someone who I had met a long time ago but follows us on this page. He is a former PCV in the Philippines so his Ilocano is impeccable, and with his Ilongga-Ilocana wife with him, I once again heard the language of my youth spoken. I actually lived in Ilokandia (the Honolulu neighborhood with denizens from the region is called Ilokoslovakia) for only four years, leaving when I was 14 but the language was spoken by my parents at home. Along with English, it was the language I grew up with, though I no longer heard it on a regular basis since I graduated from the Ilocos Norte High School in 1960.

I thought yesterday's column was going to be the last on Saipan but I came back singing (to the tune of *Tomorrow belongs to me* from the film *Cabaret*):

*The flame tree in Saipan is greeting the sun
The rainbow in Tinian stands tall
All races together, we live as one
The earth belongs to all.*

I was evidently still in the spirit of the OT psalmist reminded as a former cleric on Saipan, in the poetry of Walt Whitman, and in the mood of the *Jubilate* singers. Saipan as a microcosm of the earth was a suggestion I made last week. I was not too far off. Of the watering holes and the little shack along Beach Road that flamed my crepe, the signage included Russian, Korean, Chinese, Japanese, and English. At the crepe's place, French music was played in the sound system.

In the watering hole next door, I ran into one of the female members of the Legislature who I greeted warmly, recognizing her from the district I last voted in. She must have remembered me in my previous incarnation 'cause she asked that I "pray" for her and her legislative task; perhaps, also her fate in the coming election. That's

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

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how the flame tree image, some already in bloom along the pathway, got stuck in my memory. The red flowers afame and images of past Arts Festivals held in its name in April, came rushing back to me and got stuck as I faced the cold winds of Dong Bei.

In the movie *Cabaret*, one of the songs claims that money that makes the world go round, and since I neither have the intense impulse to make some, and hardly have any I can hold on long enough to make it worth the count, I am obviously not contributing much to the spin of the planet. That was probably what caught our attention on the little shack's door that greeted its customers with "happy" as what the place and its customers make.

Money is the preoccupation of a large segment of the main continent of Asia, surrounding islands, peninsulas and archipelagos. In China, "how much?" is the first line of query in almost anything—one's labor, commodity, goods, services, etc. Value goes with numbers, attached usually with signs of ¥, \$, £, et al. "Happy" is not a quantifiable term, since anything quantifiable is really never enough. I shall not tire repeating Rockefeller's oft-quoted claim that there is never enough money for anyone, and he had lots of it.

I have nothing against money, the symbol of our accumulated selfhood. It's just that too many folks get too many stomach ulcers trying to chase the paper trail. The health care industry does not mind since it increases their revenue. Pharmaceuticals do not mind either since it adds up to the demand for their products. It is hoped that the ethos of staying healthy and keeping fit, rather than the false security of insurance, the original intent of the health reform program that grossly came out as Obamacare, will prevail.

One of the proprietors of the snack shack I visited Friday last week used to sell sugar-flavored carbonated water, and being the glib one, I was loose with the tongue to ask him if he was happy with it. He obviously wasn't. Happy is what his crepes are made of, and we have no complaints. By the looks of his bode, he does not appear to have any qualms either. It appears that neither did the customers who were seated outside its shaded wide awning. To be sure, the WiFi was an added attraction but I did not pull out my laptop. It was the crepe that made my day. *J'aime le crepe!*

Trañkilu na linala` isla

Unuyu` gi man-ritirau ni tumatitiye inefresen satbasion probleman este na programa ni para u fagpu` gi 2019 na sakan.

I ma-offerese na satbasion ginen casino mampos fatsu. Gi primet lugat tinahoñg \$41 miyon pesus yan para mona. I settlement agreement para i 75 pot sientu na pagamienton man-ritirau ha nesessita \$45 miyon pesus gi sakan. 'Nai tinahoñg i masupopone na apas ginen casino pues ti satbasion este soluke mana` fan apalo`pu` mas dibi! Tampen sinetnan i nesessidat man-ritirau!

Lokue`, kau bale para ta sakrifisia futtunan famaguonta pot dinagen apas 25 pot sientu ni klaru na tinahoñg deste tutuhon? Kau propiu para ta pega kantidan dibi gi tatalu` famaguonta pot chat-konsiderasian `nos kuantos gi hegsu` I Deni`?

Hafa ya guaha pesti `sino gera entalu` Chinu yan Japones ni kada ratu umatotbus pa`gu? Guaha mohon para u fan manbisita mage Marianas? Na ti magahet na siempre u fañaga hihot yan tanu` niha? Gi hilu` este, kau bale i esta ta lachai numa`en ñaihion futtunan famaguonta?

Afañielos, ni guahu kumu ritirau ti listuyu` kumonduse famaguonta guatu gi lugat matansa (slaughterhouse) para u fan matrata kumu esklabu` `sino u fan mapunu` ni man-mikeble na tropan kriminat ginen hiyuñg.

Maila` ta sustene i tai achaigua na trañkilidat yan pas kumu kumundan mañcontentu na tautau tanu`. Estague` finana`guen mañainata poresu na mauleg tana` lachagu` hinassota. Si Yuus Ma`ase`!

Homlu` Na Neñkanu` Antigu

Hu huñgog un` mediku na `an para u homlu` i tautau, debi u kanu` antigu na nefikanu`. Mauleg na rekondasian lau manuyu` `nai baihu fañoda` antigosu na mantension?

‘An pot a’gun natibu, siña man-suette hit choda, mendioka, kameute, sune, dagu, gadu` yan nika. Kase siña mansuette hit tinanom papa` oda`.

I cheda gigon inestane mañglo un` ratu ha` umaliñgkiñg. I lemai

esta megai man-tinemba ni manadan pagyu. Kase gai benifisiu mas i para ta usune tinanom papa` oda`.

Appenas esta troñkun talisai yan otru siha gulusina. Dispues, todumatara bira sentadan natibu sa` mas ha` cereal yan leche pioy ya mana` tinitiye ni umega` TV `nai duru ta`lu somug ice cream yan otru siha bokan na` chetnudan.

Gaige este na asuntu gi halom gima` familia. I dos saina siña umaregla homlu` na sentada yan etsisian familia. Sin este, kanaha` puru kandidaton daialasis yan operasian korason para mona.

Tiempon Maneñgheñg

Gi ha`anen Thanksgiving `nai ta tutuhon sumiente mañglu` maneñgheñg `nai sige i niebi (snow) poduñg giya Japon, Korea yan otru lugat siha giya Asia.

Lau deste Disiembre gi mapos na sakan, sumagaha` i maneñgheñg na mañglu` gi hechuran man-fros monedan familia. Pot tai sinahguan mina` ti takeke baba. Fros i petta pot appenas ta rikonose sa` tai sinahguan.

Maseha manu guatu, maneñgheñg. Maseha lokue` haye un` soda` nina` chichich` ni maneñgheñg moneda gi betsaa. Dios mihu na mattiru gi linala` familia.

Taimanu ha fino`hu gi lataftaf, este na mattiru kada sien años tumunog gi enteru elmundi. Kase mangaige hit gi birada hulu`. Puede magahet ya u ta tutuhon umaregla ha`anita gi halom lafresku na guinaisen mañglu` ayudu gi monedan familia siha.

Todu bale na biale

Tiha alifog gaput iluña i amiguhu, kala`u`! Sige fumofu gi kanton kasiyas manog. Kontodu mauleg na ga`ña galagu ha tobus ni batden na`manog.

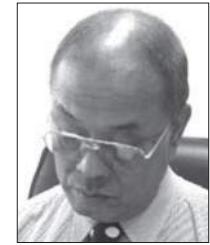
Hu kanefise humihot pot no kontodu guahu u chatfinu`e. Manganagau kafe gi asaguaña. ‘Nai kulan dididi` atrasasau manae`, ume-salau. Ayu `nai hu tulusuu` para i kareta ya enseñidas hu diñgu i lugat.

Gi latalo`ane hu birayu` tatte. Esta mas ñahlalañg mataña ya sige

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



kumonbetsasion. Dispues ha tutuhon lumapbla i man-sabiun i hegus` I Deni` ni miserapble na modun linala` pa`gu.

Magahet na tat ti nina` chachafinu` ni mattirun tiempu. Gigun un` kubre un` nesessidat, un` punu` i otru mientras sige un` yotte hulu` dos bolan dibina manu mas presisu na nesessidat gi siguiente sigidu. Taya` chumachaleg fuera ke litraton un` cowboy pot chupan Marlboro.

Mauleg na ti guahu manehanten monedan familia `sino hu tahgue amiguhu chumafinu` diariu. Dios mihu na mattiru.

Pastores gi kelat kinilu

Man-estaba `nos kuantos pastores man-mamumulan kinilu. ‘Nai doku` un` lobu (wolf) gi chagu`, man-malagu pot malie` na piligrui mafafana`. Haf mohon na man-malagu lau siha pumupulan i pinegsai siha?

Pot man-ma-apapase kumu empleau mina` man-malagu. Parehu mohon estoria yangin i dueñu fumagchae` finatton lobu? Puntu: I Saina ha sañgan klaru na para u tachu dumefende i in-nosiente pot no umana` lamen `sino aminasa. Estague` sustansian mauleg na pastot gi kinilu.

■ ■ ■

I santa biblia ilelegña na solu tatautau ni makone` intaktu hulu` gi lañget tatautau Santa Maria. Todu otru finapos hechuran espiritu `nai man-hanau. Estague` mina sumen ma`gas kinahulona` gi lañget.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Follow up on tax rebate/casino bill

I have received a number of emails from community members, a call from a political leader, and an email from another. I visited with several others, both with opposite votes. Many of the emails brought up various points. The pro-casino representative I visited with said he disagreed with some language/items in the bill but still voted for it. He has concerns regarding revenue and feels this is a solution.

Leaders and those who think of themselves as leaders, please pay attention to what is being said. This bill is being criticized by supporters and proponents. Here is my take.

Please do not work in the shadows and the dark. Stay way from the secret negotiations and self-serving agendas. Work in the light and be transparent. How many of you condemned the corruption of the past administration and in the moment made a thoughtless decision and voted on a bill so full of holes, unintended consequences, unreal exceptions, no time and date deadlines, overlooking critical details, etc., etc., etc. With blinders on and a sense of “pass it now,” the message was delivered—that the people don’t need be part of this process. What is wrong with another public hearing or another ballot initiative? Are the people who voted for you important? (This

is how some folks feel.) Remember the 190 million dollar contract. How was that received? DON’T RUSH. Bad bills destroy confidence.

Please acknowledge a mistake and correct it. Do it right. Our people can be very forgiving.

There is no magic lottery ticket to solve our economic/retirement problems in the CNMI. Let us learn from our past mistakes and those from the USA. Economic development takes place with small incremental steps. One massive development is a two-edged sword. Many small and medium businesses can create stability...if utility rates or losing rebates don’t kill them. Can’t our leaders put as much effort into creating a business development that fosters growth as they have in passing the casino bill? Let’s not hop around on one leg. We can’t forget that we still overspend and have too many elected officials. Sorry but there are programs that might need to be cut because we can’t afford it. It’s not always about raising taxes and revenue. Positive business environments take time to develop.

One hundred small businesses that employ 5-20 people each can account for thousands of jobs.

We need an attitude of working to create our financial security and not government handouts. We need to plant gardens, clean up our own trash, not take advantage of our visitors and be friendly. Become educators and entrepreneurs. How about being honest and fair with each other? Be civil.

We have a great tool with our rebate, let’s help businesses who might be willing to come to the Commonwealth and benefit from our tax rate. Can’t we be business friendly instead of “get money from the businesses”? Stop creating laws of the week only to try and fix it next week. We need stability.

Our islands are beautiful and can be a wonderful place. I love Saipan and love living here in spite of our challenges. Many don’t get past the challenges and difficulties. But those who do find paradise, during moments, love and never leave Saipan behind. Let’s work together.

Enough said.

Del Benson

Capital Hill, Saipan

Serving with honor

My name is Lino Zackary Manglona Tenorio. I was born on the Island of Guam but raised on the island of Saipan. First of all, I would like to thank all the individuals in the U.S. Armed forces who have served, are currently serving, and most especially to those who gave all. As a 12B (Combat Engineer), I was stationed on Fort Lewis, WA from 2006 to 2008 and only a few months after arriving, I was deployed to Iraq.

The sense of great danger is still fresh in my mind as we arrived in the country. It felt surreal that I was probably in one of the most dangerous journey of my military career, but at the same time I could have never been more proud to be a part of our U.S. armed forces because I know that I’m defending my country and my people for our freedom.

As the days went by the feeling of danger became less and less because it started to feel “normal.” On Oct. 22, 2006, it felt like just any other “normal” night in Iraq as we were on a route clearance in Baghdad city. I was the driver of the third vehicle doing route clearance when out of nowhere we came across an Explosive Force Penetrator, which hit us on the passenger side of our Striker vehicle. Just a few minutes later the Striker caught fire and there where soldiers yelling in the back. As the driver, I tried to hit the switch for the ramp to drop while I had flames all around me but I was unsuccessful due to all the switches being melted from the flames. I felt like my head was in an oven that has been preheated to its highest

degrees. As I got out of the vehicle and still keeping an eye on the rooftops and everywhere else around me, I managed to help other soldiers out of the vehicle and into safety. Then there was a little sense of relief as the Medevac vehicle arrived and I can remember complaining about my face feeling like it was burning. The next day half of my face was peeling. I was told that I couldn’t go on any mission for a week or two and that got me really angry inside because whenever any of my battle buddies got injured I couldn’t be there for them.

Some time on Jan. 20, 2007, we were informed that there was an area which we had an intel that there were enemies close by. We drove to that area and found nothing but equipment trucks parked all around. We then stared to head back toward base and as I was driving the second vehicle we passed by an area that seemed suspicious, but the lead vehicle cleared it. When I passed by the suspicious object, we were hit by 400-500 lbs of stacked up land mines. I knew we were hit but I couldn’t determine the amount of damage or if I was even injured because at that moment I didn’t feel any pain. I felt like as if I was suddenly paralyzed as I couldn’t move any part of my body. About less than 10 seconds later I felt a sudden rush of pain in my left arm as if I had my arm up on a wall and a one-ton truck was crashing into it at eighty miles per hour. Then my battle buddies helped me out of the vehicle and carried me to the Medevac vehicle where the medics started treating my wound. Not knowing

the extent of my injury I remembered yelling to them that “I will be back! I will be back!”

I then got medevac out to different hospitals for operations and therapy and as I knew it I was on a flight back home to Fort Lewis. I felt devastated for leaving my battle buddies out in Iraq so about three to four months before everyone returned back to the U.S., believe it or not, even if I was close to losing my arm and God knows what else, I still went ahead and volunteered to go back to be with my unit. I knew it wasn’t going to be an easy request but I took it all the way to approval. I had to go through many high ranking people such as a brigade sergeant major and many more to approve my request. I don’t know how many soldiers that you hear of that almost lost a body part during deployment but still requests to return, because I did! I never once looked back at it with regret.

Later in my military journey I got medical discharge/retire from the army but if I can switch places with any soldiers I really would. Because serving my country never really felt like an option for me but more of an obligation to proudly serve with great honor for our people because we deserve our freedom no matter what the price may be.

SSG Lino Zackary Manglona Tenorio

via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 85° ▾ 75°

▲ 86° ▾ 75°

▲ 87° ▾ 76°

▲ 87° ▾ 76°

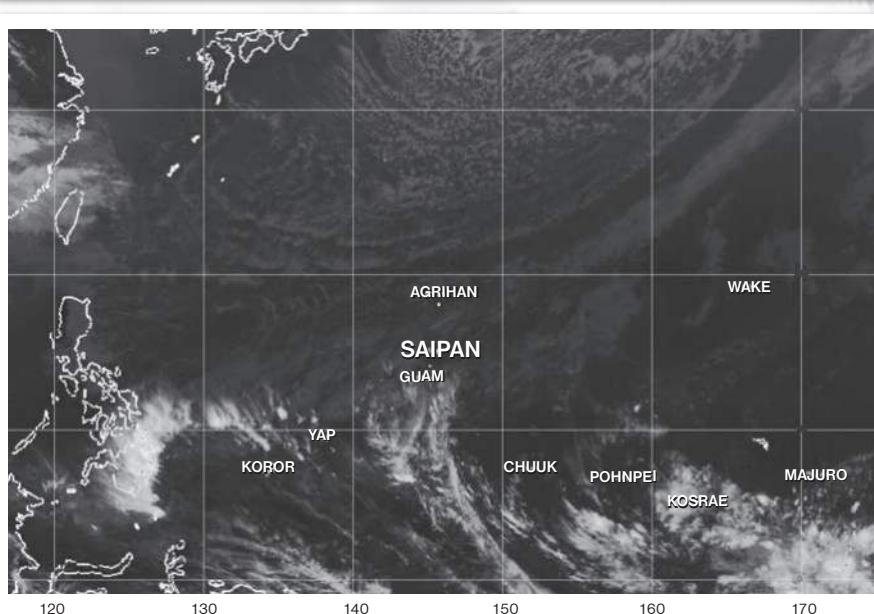
▲ 87° ▾ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▾ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 74
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▾ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▾ 81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▾ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▾ 78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▾ 81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 70 ▾ 61
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 60 ▾ 35
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲ 63 ▾ 60
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▾ 69
London	Fog	▲ 61 ▾ 39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 76 ▾ 53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▾ 78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▾ 60
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▾ 60
New York	Windy	▲ 25 ▾ 19
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▾ 38
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▾ 45
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 49 ▾ 40
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▾ 45
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▾ 43
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 68 ▾ 51
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 50 ▾ 32
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 48 ▾ 38
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 35 ▾ 25



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N174E to become a shear line north of Wake Island at 21N167E and continues to south of Guam where it curves westward and continues around Yap to beyond 11N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 500 miles northwest of this boundary and isolated thunderstorms are seen west of 144E. Similar weather is also found in convergent northeast winds over Koror within 75 miles of a line from 9N130E to 4N142E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk between 4N and 7N from 150E to 152E and south of Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 5N from 152E to 164E. A tropical disturbance centered near 3N176E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Kwajalein and around Majuro between the equator and 9N from 166E to the dateline.

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:27 AM	6:27 PM	Today	3:40 PM	3:45 AM
12:42 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet	Friday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
7:27 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet	Saturday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
1:13 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.9 Feet	Sunday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
6:26 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet	Monday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z602	2:20am	5:50am</	

Business

Europe wants its Parmesan back, seeks name change

WASHINGTON (AP)—Would Parmesan by any other name be as tasty atop your pasta? A ripening trade battle might put that to the test.

As part of trade talks, the European Union wants to ban the use of European names like Parmesan, feta and Gorgonzola on cheese made in the United States.

The argument is that the American-made cheeses are shadows of the original European varieties and cut into sales and identity of the European cheeses. The Europeans say Parmesan should only come from Parma, Italy, not those familiar green cylinders that American companies sell. Feta should only be from Greece, even though feta isn't a place. The EU argues it "is so closely connected to Greece as to be identified as an inherently Greek product."

So, a little "hard-grated cheese" for your pasta? It doesn't have quite the same ring as Parmesan.

U.S. dairy producers, cheesemakers and food companies are all fighting the idea, which they say would hurt the \$4 billion domestic cheese industry and endlessly confuse consumers.

"It's really stunning that the Europeans are trying to claw back products made popular in other countries," says Jim Mulhern, president of the National Milk Producers Federation, which represents U.S. dairy farmers.

The European Union would not say exactly what it is proposing or even whether it will be discussed this week as a new round of talks on an EU-United States free trade agreement opens in Brussels.

European Commission spokesman Roger Waite would



A package of Kraft parmesan cheese is seen in Washington, Tuesday, March 11, 2014. AP

only say that the question "is an important issue for the EU."

That's clear from recent agreements with Canada and Central America, where certain cheese names were restricted unless the cheese came from Europe. Under the Canadian agreement, for example, new feta products manufactured in Canada can only be marketed as feta-like or feta-style, and they can't use Greek letters or other symbols that evoke Greece.

Though they have not laid out a public proposal, the EU is expected to make similar attempts to restrict marketing of U.S.-made cheeses, possibly including Parmesan, Asiago, Gorgonzola, feta, fontina, grana, Muenster, Neufchatel and Romano.

And it may not be just cheese. Other products could include bologna, Black Forest ham, Greek

yogurt, Valencia oranges and prosciutto, among other foods.

The trade negotiations are important for the EU as Europe has tried to protect its share of agricultural exports and pull itself out of recession. The ability to exclusively sell some of the continent's most famous and traditional products would prevent others from cutting into those markets.

Concerned about the possible impact of changing the label on those popular foods, a bipartisan group of 55 senators wrote U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack this week asking them not to agree to any such proposals by the EU.

Led by New York Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Pennsylvania Sen. Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., the members wrote that in

the states they represent, "many small- or medium-sized, family owned businesses could have their businesses unfairly restricted" and that export businesses could be gravely hurt.

Schumer said artisanal cheese production is a growing industry across New York.

"Muenster is Muenster, no matter how you slice it," he said.

Trevor Kinkaid, a spokesman for the U.S. trade representative, said conversations on the issue are in the early stages but that the U.S. and E.U. have "different points of view" on the topic.

The agency wouldn't disclose details of the negotiations, but Kinkaid said the U.S. government is "committed to increasing opportunity for U.S. businesses, farmers and workers through trade."

cars. With the federal government apparently years away from developing regulations, California's rules could effectively become the national standard.

Much of the initial discussion Tuesday focused on privacy concerns.

California's law requires autonomous vehicles to log records of operation so the data can be used to reconstruct an accident.

But the cars "must not become another way to track us in our daily lives," John M. Simpson of the nonprofit Consumer Watchdog said at the hearing. Simpson called out Google, saying the Internet giant rebuffed attempts to add privacy guarantees when it pushed the 2012 legislation mandating rules on testing and public operation.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

50 cents, \$1 or \$2? Starbucks adding digital tips

NEW YORK (AP)—Starbucks will soon let customers leave tips with its mobile payment app, which begs the question—how often do people tip their baristas? The coffee chain says the mobile tipping option, which it announced more than a year ago, will be available on its updated app for iPhones starting March 19. The rollout comes as the company's app has surged in popularity, with roughly one out of every 10 purchases now made with a mobile device. After paying with the app, Starbucks says customers will be able to leave a tip of 50 cents, \$1 or \$2 anytime within two hours of the transaction. The tipping option will only be available at the 7,000 of the roughly 11,000 Starbucks locations in the U.S. that are owned by the company.

Oil falls near \$100 as crude supplies seen rising

The price of oil dropped near \$100 a barrel Tuesday on expectations that U.S. oil supplies rose last week. Benchmark U.S. crude for April delivery dropped \$1.09 to close at \$100.03 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the lowest price in a month. Brent crude, used to set prices for international varieties of crude, rose 47 cents to \$108.55 on the ICE Futures exchange in London. Investors' expectations that the Energy Department will report an eighth straight weekly increase in oil supplies pressured oil prices. (AP)

Source: Justice Dept probing GM recall

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors faced more pressure over its handling of a deadly defect in certain compact cars Tuesday as word leaked of a criminal investigation and two congressional committees opened probes into the matter.

The Justice Department is investigating whether GM broke any laws with its slow response to a problem with ignition switches in compact cars from model years 2003 to 2007, according to a person briefed on the matter.

The probe is being handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the investigation has not been made public.

Spokesmen for the Justice Department and GM would not comment. The investigation was first reported by Bloomberg News.

At issue is why GM waited until February to recall 1.6 million older-model compact cars worldwide, even though it admitted knowing about the problem for a decade. The faulty ignition switches have been linked to 31 crashes and 13 deaths. Committees in the House and Senate also want to know why the government's road safety watchdog, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, didn't take action sooner.

G Fred Upton of Western Michigan, the chairman of the House committee, said in a statement Monday that a hearing will be held in the coming weeks.

Congress passed legislation in 2000 requiring automakers to report safety problems quickly to NHTSA. The laws came after an investigation into a series of Ford-Firestone tire problems.

GM announced last month it

California mulls how to regulate driverless cars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sooner or later, consumers will be able to buy cars that rely on computers—not the owner—to do the driving.

Though the technology is still being tested, the day it rolls out into broad public use can now be measured in years, not decades.

With that timeframe in mind, California's Department of Motor Vehicles on Tuesday began puzzling through how to regulate the vehicles that haven't been fully developed yet.

Among the complex questions officials sought to unravel at the initial public hearing on regulations in Sacramento:

How will the state know the

cars are safe?

Does a driver even need to be behind the wheel?

Can manufacturers mine data from onboard computers to make product pitches based on where the car goes or set insurance rates based on how it is driven?

Do owners get docked points on their license if they send a car to park itself and it slams into another vehicle?

Once the stuff of science fiction, driverless cars could be commercially available by decade's end. Under a California law passed in 2012, the DMV must decide by the end of this year how to integrate the cars—often called autonomous vehi-

cles—onto public roads.

Three other states have passed driverless car laws, but those rules mostly focus on testing. California has mandated rules on testing and public operation, and the DMV expects within weeks to finalize regulations dictating what companies must do to test the technology on public roads.

Those rules came after Google Inc. had already sent its fleet of Priuses and Lexuses, fitted with an array of sensors including radar and lasers, hundreds of thousands of miles in California. Major automakers also have tested their own models.

Now, the DMV is scrambling to regulate the broader use of the

cars. With the federal government apparently years away from developing regulations, California's rules could effectively become the national standard.

Much of the initial discussion Tuesday focused on privacy concerns.

California's law requires autonomous vehicles to log records of operation so the data can be used to reconstruct an accident.

But the cars "must not become another way to track us in our daily lives," John M. Simpson of the nonprofit Consumer Watchdog said at the hearing. Simpson called out Google, saying the Internet giant rebuffed attempts to add privacy guarantees when it pushed the 2012 legislation mandating rules on testing and public operation.

GM announced last month it

LEADING INDICATORS			EXCHANGE RATES		
DOW	S&P	NASDAQ	Australian Dollar	7.7621	Philippine Peso
16,351.25	1,867.63	4,307.19	British Pound	61.1080	44.6299
-67.43	-9.54	-27.26	Canadian Dollar	11475.0000	Singapore Dollar
-0.41%	-0.51%	-0.63%	Chinese Yuan	102.9598	1.2687
			Euro	3.2894	South Korean Won
				1.7217	30.3242
					Thailand Baht
					32.4178



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\$539.95

Kenmore 12" Table Fan



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Primo Ceramic Water Dispenser



\$729.95

Kenmore 15cu.ft. Refrigerator



\$329.95

Jaclyn Smith 5pc Mahogany Dining Set



\$35.95

Essential Home Square Accent Table

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Cosco 5pc Table & Chair Set

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Beginnings By Sauder 5 Shelf Book Case

\$37.95

Beginnings By Sauder 5 Shelf Book Case



\$14.95

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Yikalu Pillows 2 Pack



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Oval 87 X 57cm Throw Rug



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\$25.95

Folding Cot



\$9.95

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3pc Large Hardcase Wheeled Luggage



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Nation

CIA accused: Senator sees torture probe meddling

WASHINGTON (AP)—In an extraordinary public accusation, the head of the Senate Intelligence Committee declared on Tuesday that the CIA interfered with and then tried to intimidate a congressional investigation into the agency's possible use of torture in terror probes during the Bush administration.

The CIA clandestinely removed documents and searched a computer network set up for lawmakers, said Sen. Dianne Feinstein in a long and biting speech on the Senate floor. In an escalating dispute with an agency she has long supported, she said the CIA may well have violated criminal laws and the U.S. Constitution.

At odds on major contentions, both sides noted the matter has now been handed to the Justice Department for further investigation and potential prosecution. The CIA's inspector general, David Buckley, first referred the matter to Justice, and the CIA's acting counsel responded by filing a criminal report about the intelligence committee staff.

"I am not taking it lightly," Feinstein said of the tit-for-tat investigations. "I view the acting counsel general's referral as a potential effort to intimidate



AP
Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., talks to reporters as she leaves the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 11, 2014, after saying that the CIA's improper search of a stand-alone computer network established for Congress has been referred to the Justice Department.

this staff" in the interrogation investigation.

The dispute between the CIA and senators, which has been going on privately for more than five years, exploded into a public clash as the California Democrat offered a detailed account of the Senate's secretive dealings with

the CIA in an investigation of post-Sept. 11 interrogation and detention practices.

More broadly, all U.S. spy agencies have drawn intense scrutiny since revelations last summer about surveillance of Americans by the National Security Agency. The Obama admin-

istration has struggled to rebuild public trust since former analyst Edward Snowden made the disclosures. Feinstein has been one of the intelligence community's most ardent advocates, arguing that the wide surveillance of people's electronic and telephone communications was a necessary

counterterrorism tool.

In the current matter, a long-running dispute has centered on whether waterboarding, a technique that simulates drowning, and other harsh interrogation techniques were factors in aiding the CIA's antiterror efforts and helped the agency track down Osama bin Laden.

CIA Director John Brennan rejected Feinstein's accusations, insisting that the agency was not trying to thwart the committee's work and denying that it had been spying on the panel or the Senate. He said the appropriate authorities would look at the matter further and "I defer to them to determine whether or not there was any violation of law or principle."

Brennan said if he did "something wrong, I would go to the president and he would be the one to ask me to stay or go."

Brennan told Feinstein in a letter in January that he took responsibility for ordering CIA technicians to audit the computer systems used by the Senate staffers—to determine if there was a security breach.

In the letter, shared with CIA workers and obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday, Brennan said he asked for the

review after finding that Senate investigators may have "improperly obtained and/or retained ... sensitive CIA documents" that the CIA had no record of sharing with them. He repeated his request for their return.

Feinstein insisted that her staff members acted appropriately in following an agreement worked out between her committee and then-CIA Director Leon Panetta in 2009.

But Feinstein and the CIA also have accused each other's staffs of improper behavior. She said she had "grave concerns that the CIA's search may well have violated the separation of powers principles embodied in the United States Constitution," as well as the Fourth Amendment that prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures.

She said she has sought an explanation and an apology from the CIA. Neither has been forthcoming.

Feinstein received a standing ovation from her Democratic colleagues at a closed-party lunch on Tuesday. Several Republicans also expressed their concerns, but the Intelligence Committee's top Republican, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, wasn't one of them.

Republican Jolly wins Fla. congressional race

CLEARWATER BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Republican David Jolly defeated Democrat Alex Sink on Tuesday in a Tampa-area House district where President Barack Obama's health care overhaul got its first test ahead of November's midterm elections and both sides spent millions auditioning national strategies.

With almost 100 percent of the vote counted, Jolly had 48.5 percent of the vote to Sink's 46.7 percent. Libertarian Lucas Overby had 4.8 percent. The election was to replace 42-year Republican Rep. CW Bill Young, who died in October of cancer, and the evenly divided district had been considered a toss-up.

The implications of the duel-



ing messages for the midterm elections inspired both parties to call in star advocates like former President Bill Clinton and former vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan, in addition to blanketing the district with ads, calls and mailings. More than \$11 million has been spent on the race, according to the Sunlight Foundation, a nonprofit group that tracks government information.

Jolly's election night headquarters in Clearwater Beach erupted into loud cheers as it became clear he was the winner. In his victory speech, Jolly simultaneously struck a conciliatory tone and

expressed gratitude for his mentor, Young, and Young's family. Jolly was introduced by former "Price is Right" game show host Bob Barker, via video. Young's two adult sons were also onstage with Jolly, and he embraced them at the end of his speech.

Jolly didn't mention the issue that dominated much of the campaign - the president's health care package - and instead said that Pinellas County must work together.

"This race is not about defending a broken agenda in Washington or advancing a broken agenda in Washington. This race is about serving the people in our own

community," he said. "Let's dispense with the rancor and vitriol of the last five months."

Jolly thanked Sink and Overby and said it was "OK" that tens of thousands of others voted for his opponents.

"While this campaign at times seemed to be partisan, your next congressman is not partisan," he said.

In St. Petersburg, Sink's party was subdued. Backed by her adult children, Sink began her concession speech by thanking her campaign team and the thousands of volunteers who helped her congressional bid. She spoke to a couple hundred stoic supporters in a half-empty ballroom at a lakeside Hilton in St. Petersburg.

caused some confusion.

"I had a guy in here yesterday asking for salt and right after him a guy wanted mulch. Only in Chicago," said Richard Schauer, owner of Schauer's Hardware in Forest Park.

Schauer said his store, like so many others, is out of salt. And he's not about to buy more just to cover one more - hopefully - snow storm.

"I don't want to be stuck with it. It costs a lot of money and takes up a lot of space," he said.

He did say there are still a few shovels, though the selection is pretty thin.

ACROSS THE NATION

Testimony: Child's body found in suitcase in creek

OTTAWA, Kan. (AP)—A woman whose decomposing body was found under a pile of clothing next to the body of her boyfriend at a Kansas farm had been bound at the wrists and was partially clothed, crime scene specialists testified Tuesday. Kyle Trevor Flack, 28, is charged with capital murder, first-degree murder and attempted rape. The investigators testified at preliminary hearing for Franklin County Judge Thomas H. Sachse to determine if there was enough evidence to send the case to trial. Flack is accused of killing Andrew Stout, Steven White and Kaylie Bailey, who were found last spring at Stout's farm in Ottawa, about 50 miles southwest of Kansas City. Investigators found the body of Bailey's 18-month-old daughter Lana Leigh Bailey, a few days later in neighboring Osage County.

British shoe-bomb plotter says he flew with bomb

NEW YORK (AP)—A British man testifying in the terror trial of Osama bin Laden's son-in-law said Tuesday he flew on planes over the Middle East and Europe with explosives in a shoe after the Sept. 11 attacks but didn't detonate them because he was saving the bomb for an attack over America. Saajid Badat revealed details of the plot as he testified for a second day at the New York trial of Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, bin Laden's son-in-law and al-Qaida's spokesman after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Badat testified he wore a shoe bomb on at least one flight from Karachi, Pakistan, to Holland and another from Holland to Great Britain in December 2001, choosing not to detonate it because he wanted to use it for an attack against an American aircraft.

Oregon couple attacked by cat plans to get it help

PORLTAND, Ore. (AP)—The Oregon owners of a 22-pound housecat that trapped them in their bedroom after attacking their baby say they're not giving up on their pet and are getting it medical attention and therapy. Two days after police arrived to subdue the 4-year-old part-Himalayan cat, owner Lee Palmer of Portland said he's taking the feline to a veterinarian. A pet psychologist also is due at the house to see the cat, named Lux. "We're not getting rid of him right now," Palmer said. "He's been part of our family for a long time." Palmer says the animal attacked his 7-month-old child after the baby pulled its tail. The child suffered a few scratches on the forehead.

Cold and snow returns after brief period of warmth

CHICAGO (AP)—The Midwest and the Eastern Seaboard are bracing for another blast of below-normal temperatures and heavy snowfall after a few days of temperatures that moved slightly above normal for this time of year.

The National Weather Service says a storm developing over the middle Mississippi Valley as rain late Tuesday will change to snow and move northeastward to the Gulf of Maine by Thursday. It is expected to dump up to 8 inches of snow in the Chicago area and northern Indiana and more along the Great Lakes in

Ohio, Pennsylvania and upstate New York before dissipating over Canada.

Chicago has already been buried by 75.5 inches of snow this winter - fourth most on record dating back to 1884-1885, according to the weather service. The snowfall expected into Wednesday could push the seasonal total into third place, ahead of the 77.0 inch total from 1969-1970.

Southeastern Michigan, where up to 9 inches is forecast, may come close to breaking a 133-year-old snowfall record. The storm will likely move the Detroit area close to the season-

al snow total of 93.6 inches set in 1880-1881, according to the weather service.

Indianapolis was expecting a temperature drop of about 40 degrees over a 24-hour period overlapping Tuesday and Wednesday, said Chad Swain, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service.

"We're 68 for the high right now," Swain said late Tuesday afternoon. "That's going to quickly change."

The sharp changes in temperatures, with Chicago falling to the teens late Wednesday after moving above 50 Tuesday, has

Asia

Malaysia not sure which way lost jet was headed

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—More than four days after a Malaysian jetliner went missing en route to Beijing, authorities acknowledged Wednesday they didn't know which direction the plane carrying 239 passengers was heading when it disappeared, vastly complicating efforts to find it.

Amid intensifying confusion and occasionally contradictory statements, the country's civil aviation authorities and the military both said the plane may have turned back from its last known position between Malaysian and Vietnam, possibly as far as the Strait of Malacca, a busy shipping lane on the western side of Malaysia.

■ ■ ■

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia Airlines says it is investigating an Australia television report that the co-pilot on its missing flight had invited two women to stay in the cockpit for the duration of a flight two years ago.

Jonti Roos spoke about her flight on the program "A Current Affair," which aired multiple still photographs from Roos that showed the women inside the cockpit and the pilots apparently working the plane's controls.

The airline said late Tuesday it wouldn't comment about the report until its investigation into it is complete.

■ ■ ■

How it might have done this without being clearly detected remains a mystery, raising questions over whether its electrical systems, including transponders allowing it to be spotted by radar, were either knocked out or turned off. If it did manage to fly on, it would challenge earlier theories that the plane may have suffered a catastrophic incident, initially thought reasonable because it didn't send out any distress signals.

Authorities have not ruled



A ground staff member walks under a Malaysia Airlines plane at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia, Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

out any possible cause, including mechanical failure, pilot error, sabotage or terrorism in the disappearance of the plane. Both

the Boeing 777 and Malaysia Airlines have excellent safety records. Until wreckage or debris is found and examined, it will be

very hard say with any level of certainty what happened.

The search for the missing aircraft was begun from the spot it

was last reported to be over the ocean between Malaysia and Vietnam. But they have also said search operations were ongoing in the Strait of Malacca. Scores of planes and aircraft have been scouring waters in both locations.

The country's air force chief, Gen. Rodzali Daud, released a statement denying remarks attributed to him in a local media report saying that military radar had managed to track the aircraft turning back from its original course, crossing the country and making it to the Malacca strait to the west of Malaysia. The Associated Press contacted a high-level military official, who confirmed the remarks.

Rodzali referred to a statement he said he made March 9 in which he said the air force has "not ruled out the possibility of an air turn back" and said search and rescue efforts had been expanded to the waters around Penang Island, in the northern section of the strait.

It is possible that the radar readings are not definitive or subject to interpretation, especially if a plane is malfunctioning.

"There is a possibility of an air turn back. We are still investigating and looking at the radar readings," the country's civilian aviation chief Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said Wednesday.

The Strait of Malacca that separates Malaysia from Indonesia's Sumatra Island is some 400 kilometers (250 miles) from where the plane was last known to have made contact with ground control officials over the Gulf of Thailand at a height of 35,000 feet (almost 11,000 meters) early Saturday.

Adding to the confusion, Indonesia air force Col. Umar Fathur said the country had received official information from Malaysian authorities that the plane was above the South China Sea, about 10 nautical miles from Kota Bharu, Malaysia, when it turned back toward the strait and then disappeared.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Checks find flaws in Bangladesh garment factories

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Inspections of Bangladesh garment factories under a new safety initiative have found cracked support beams, extra floors apparently built without permits and exposed electrical cables chewed by rats. Overly heavy structures on roofs, substandard building materials and even an unauthorized helicopter pad were also among the problems revealed in the first round of inspection reports released Tuesday. The inspections are being funded by a group of mostly European fashion brands in the aftermath of the Rana Plaza factory collapse that killed more than 1,100 people in April last year. They plan to check some 1,500 garment factories in Bangladesh this year. The country's garment industry, its biggest export earner, has more than 5,000 factories overall.

Deadly rebel ambush stokes Indian election worries

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian Maoist rebels ambushed para-military soldiers in a brazen daytime attack Tuesday, killing 20 at a camp in a remote central forest and putting authorities on alert just weeks before national elections. The soldiers had been in a group of 44 guarding road construction workers in the south of Chhattisgarh state when about 200 rebels circled their camp and opened fire, police inspector general Mukesh Gupta said. Surviving troops engaged the rebels in a three-hour gunbattle, but there were no immediate reports of rebel casualties. Police searched nearby jungles within Sukma district, but the rebels escaped, Gupta said.

PH protests China stopping troop resupply

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Chinese coast guard prevented delivery of supplies to Filipino soldiers guarding a disputed shoal in the South China Sea and an envoy rejected a Philippine protest over the interference, officials said Tuesday.

Chinese ships prevented two Filipino civilian vessels hired by the Philippine navy from reaching Second Thomas Shoal on Sunday, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. The shoal is called Ayungin Shoal by Manila and Ren'ai Reef by the Chinese.

"For 15 years we have conducted regular resupply missions and personnel rotation without interference from China," he said.

He said the Chinese ships used digital signs, sirens and megaphones in ordering the Filipino vessels to leave. The Filipinos returned to Palawan, the nearest Philippine province

east of the Shoal.

China's charge d'affaires was summoned and handed the protest note. Hernandez said that as in the past, Beijing rejected the protest.

Less than a month ago, Manila also protested a Chinese water cannon attack on Filipino fisherman near another disputed shoal. No one was injured in the Jan. 27 incident at the Scarborough Shoal off the country's main island of Luzon in the north.

The Filipino troops awaiting fresh supplies are stationed on a decrepit military hospital ship that ran aground in 1999 on the shallow coral outcrop of the Second Thomas Shoal. The rusty ship has since become the symbol of the country's sovereignty over the area.

Japan marks 3rd anniversary of tsunami disasters

TOKYO (AP)—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to boost rebuilding efforts as the country marked the third anniversary Tuesday of a devastating earthquake and tsunami that left nearly 19,000 people dead, destroyed coastal communities and triggered a nuclear crisis.

Japan has struggled to rebuild towns and villages and to clean up radiation from the meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. Reconstruction plans are finally taking shape, but shortages of skilled workers and materials are delaying the work.

The triple disasters known in Japan as 3-11 killed 15,884 people and left 2,636 unaccounted for on its northeastern coast. The country has ear-

marked 25 trillion yen (\$250 billion) for reconstruction through March 2016.

Three years later, nearly 270,000 people remain displaced from their homes, including many from Fukushima prefecture who may never be able to return home due to radioactive contamination.

During a ceremony in Tokyo, officials and representatives of the survivors offered a minute of silence to mark the moment, at 2:46 p.m., when the magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck off the Tohoku coast. It was the strongest quake recorded in Japan's history.

Abe has visited disaster-hit areas regularly since taking office in late 2012, and said Tuesday he has seen signs of progress.

Farming and fishing resumed in some areas, and some people have moved to public housing from shelters, he said, promising to do more.

"We must further speed up the reconstruction so that everyone affected by the disasters can return to ordinary life as soon as possible," Abe, wearing a dark formal suit, said during the solemn ceremony.

Abe has promised to move hundreds of communities along that ravaged coast to higher ground to avoid future tsunamis, and build thousands more public housing units within a year in Iwate and Miyagi prefectures.

In Fukushima, reconstruction has lagged further behind in some areas because of the nuclear disaster.

World

Teen hit by Turkish police dies after 9-month coma

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkish police clashed with thousands of protesters Tuesday following the death of a Turkish teenager, who had been in a coma since being hit by a police tear-gas canister during anti-government protests last year.

Riot police fired tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets to disperse anti-government protesters hurling stones and bottles in central Ankara, the capital, and Istanbul, the largest city. The unrest swelled within hours of news that Berkin Elvan, 15, had died in an Istanbul hospital nine months after losing consciousness with a fractured skull.

Protests and clashes were reported in at least nine other cities, including in the Aegean port of Izmir where, according to the Dogan news agency, police used water cannons to disperse some 10,000 demonstrators. Authorities could provide no details on injuries to protesters or police.

Outside the Istanbul hospital itself, protesters holding a vigil threw stones at police vehicles, and officers responded with tear gas.

His family said Berkin, who turned 15 in January, was on his way to a shop to buy bread when he was caught up in a street protest and struck in the head with a high-velocity gas canister. Several police officers were questioned about Berkin's head injury but none has been charged.

His death raised the number of fatalities from last summer's protests to at least eight, including a police officer.

The anti-government demonstrations started out as a small, local protest against government plans to turn a central Istanbul park into a shopping mall. After police used force against those protesters May 31, protests spread

nationwide as demonstrators denounced Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's increasingly

authoritarian style and demanded greater democratic freedom.

Police say 3 million people

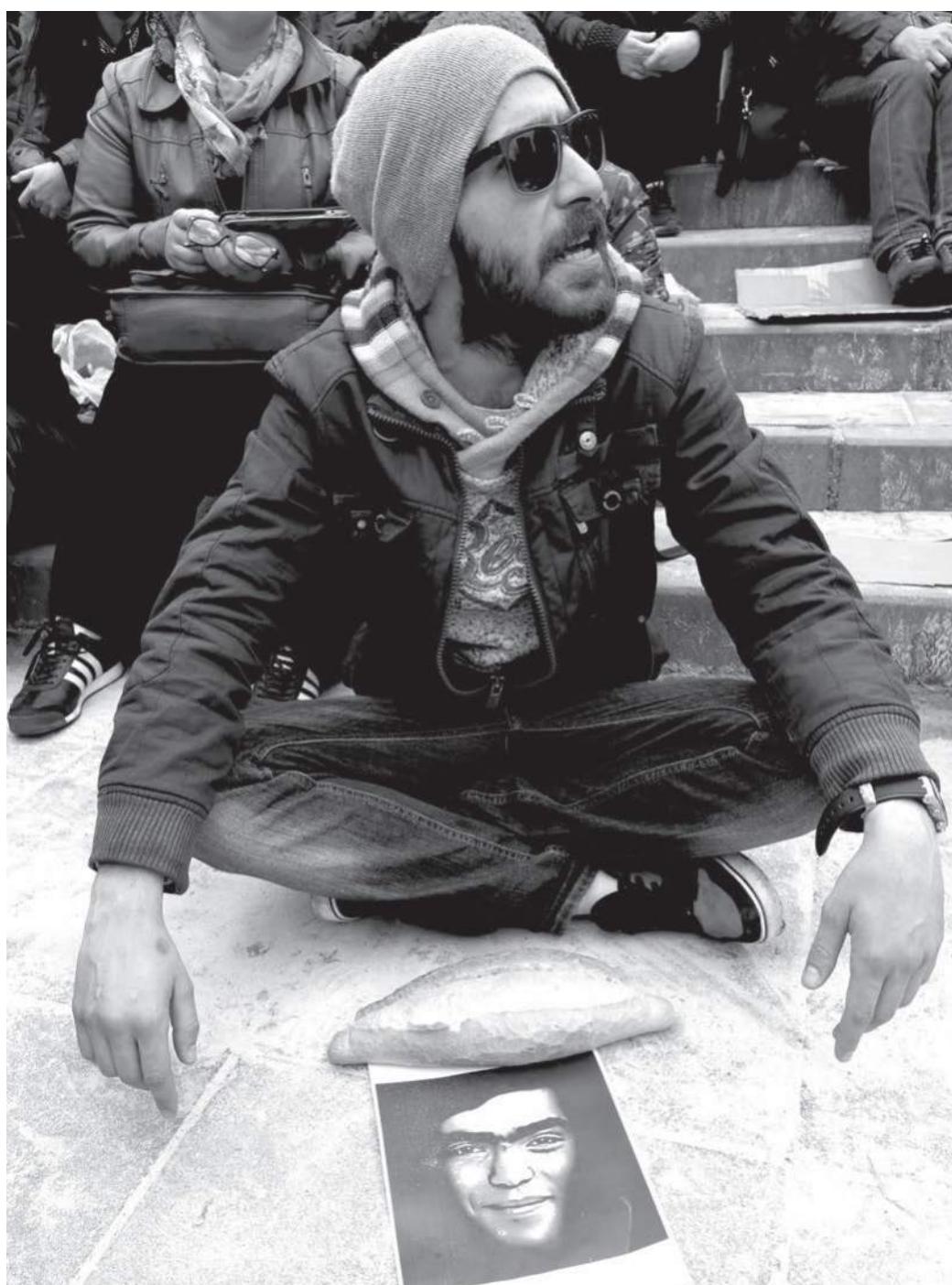
demonstrated from May to September, during which human rights groups estimate around

8,000 people were injured. Many were struck at close range by gas canisters.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said Turkey needed to deliver justice to Berkin's family by imprisoning the po-

lice officers responsible.

Emma Sinclair-Webb, senior Turkey researcher at Human Rights Watch, said Berkin "has become a symbol of Turkey's record of police violence and lack of accountability."



A man shouts slogans as people gather to protest the death of Berkin Elvan, a Turkish teenager who was in a coma since being hit on the head by a tear gas canister fired by police during last summer's anti-government protests, in Ankara, Turkey, Tuesday, March 11, 2014. AP

Crimea's parliament pushes for independence

By MIKE ECKEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (AP)—As the campaign increased for tension-filled Crimea to split off from Ukraine in a weekend referendum and join Russia, the region's parliament said Tuesday that if voters approve the move it would first declare itself an independent state, a maneuver that could escalate the standoff between Moscow and the West.

The move would give Moscow the option of saying there is no need for Crimea to become part of Russia while keeping it firmly within its sphere of influence.

The dispute between Moscow and the West over Crimea is one of the most severe geopolitical crises in Europe since the end of the Cold War. Russian forces have secured control over the

peninsula, but Ukraine's government and Western nations have denounced the referendum as illegitimate and strongly warned Russia against trying to annex Crimea.

Backers of voting to split off from Ukraine in Sunday's referendum say becoming part of Russia would return the Black Sea peninsula to its rightful home. Billboards around the regional capital proclaimed "Together with Russia" and street vendors were selling Russian flags to passing motorists.

But Russia's absorbing Crimea would only worsen tensions with the West, and the parliament declaration could put the bid on hold, depending on the outcome of Russian President Vladimir Putin's bargaining with the West.

In Sunday's referendum, the public will be given two op-

tions: becoming part of Russia, or remaining in Ukraine with broader powers.

Crimea, where Russia maintains its Black Sea Fleet base, became the epicenter of tensions in Ukraine after President Viktor Yanukovych fled last month in the wake of months of protests and outbreaks of bloodshed.

Kiev-based political analyst Vadim Karasyov said the Crimean parliament's move is "a message to the West that there is no talk about Russia incorporating Crimea."

"It's a tranquilizer for everybody - for the West and for many in Ukraine who are panicking," he said.

Karasyov speculated that Crimea could exist as a "quasi-legitimate" state, while Russia and the West negotiate.

Russia's Foreign Ministry lat-

er said in a statement that the Crimean parliament's action was legitimate. "Russia will respect the results of Crimea's referendum that will be monitored by" observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the ministry said.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov spoke by telephone Tuesday at Washington's initiative.

"From the Russian side, the necessity was underlined of taking into complete account the interests of all Ukrainians and all regions in the search for an exit from the crisis and also the respect of the right of the residents of Crimea to determine their fate on their own in accordance with the norms of international law," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Abuse charges roil heavily Catholic Puerto Rico

ARECIBO, Puerto Rico

(AP)—First, the Catholic Church announced it had defrocked six priests accused of sex abuse in the Puerto Rican town of Arecibo. Then, local prosecutors disclosed that at least 11 other priests on the island were under investigation for similar accusations.

Now, as U.S. authorities acknowledge that they, too, are looking into abuse allegations by priests on this devoutly Catholic island, many are reeling from revelations of abuse involving some of the U.S. territory's most beloved clerics.

Puerto Ricans had largely been spared the lurid accounts of sex abuse involving the Catholic Church, and many had come to believe they were immune. But Barbara Dorris, a director with the U.S.-based Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, said the new reports mean it's likely the problem is much worse than previously imagined.

"In general, these things tend to snowball because victims are afraid to come forward," Dorris said. "If the priests have been on this island for a while, it probably means that it's dozens upon

dozens of victims out there."

Puerto Rico Justice Secretary Cesar Miranda said last week that at least four dioceses are being investigated. He also warned he might file charges against church officials suspected of withholding information.

He described the situation as "truly scandalous."

"We are not going to rest," Miranda said. "We are going to capture them, we are going to process them and we are going to put them in jail."

Allegations of sex abuse by priests are not new here, but the latest wave of investigations has dwarfed anything seen on the island of 3.6 million people, more than 70 percent of whom identify themselves as Catholic.

"People want to believe in the specialness of the priests, in the power of the priests," said Richard Sipe, a California-based psychologist and former priest who is an expert on clergy sexual abuse. "The Latin American community is much slower in bringing charges against the priests. ... The priests themselves are held in greater esteem, and the culture is identified with the Catholic Church more closely."

WORLD BRIEFS

Gitmo detainee challenges force-feeding procedures

WASHINGTON (AP)—A detainee at Guantanamo Bay is challenging force-feeding practices at the facility imposed on prisoners who go on hunger strikes. In a court filing Tuesday, a 34-year-old Yemeni national who has been held at Guantánamo Bay since 2002 alleges that detainees have been force-fed up to a gallon at a time of nutrient and water. Another detainee reported that feeding sessions have sped up, compressed into as little as 20 minutes. The filing by lawyers for Emad Abdullah Hassan follows a federal appeals court ruling last month that left the door open for detainees to go to court over confinement conditions. At the Justice Department, spokeswoman Allison Price said the court filing is being reviewed.

Mexican vigilante leader detained as slay suspect

MEXICO CITY (AP)—One of the main leaders of the civilian "self-defense" groups that rose up to challenge a drug cartel in Mexico's Michoacan state was detained late Tuesday as a suspect in the weekend killings of two vigilantes, authorities announced. The detention of Hipolito Mora, who had become the affable public face of the vigilante movement, came as federal authorities sought to heal a rift between his faction and another group since the Knights Templar cartel was driven out of much of the western farming state. In a statement, Michoacan state prosecutors said Mora was detained after witnesses told investigators that Mora and other members of group participated in the killing of two men Saturday in the town of Buenavista. Mora previously denied having any involvement in the deaths.

Environment

Forecasters see El Nino warming of Pacific Ocean

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. federal forecasters predict a warming of the central Pacific Ocean this year that will change weather worldwide.

The warming, called an El Nino, can mean an even hotter year coming up and billions of dollars in losses for food crops. Australia and South Africa should be dry while parts of South America become dry and parts become wet in an El Nino. Peru suffers the most, getting floods and poorer fishing.

But it could bring good news for some parts of the planet, leading to fewer Atlantic hurricanes and more rain next winter for drought-stricken California and southern U.S. states. It could also bring and a milder winter for the frigid U.S. northern tier next year, meteorologists say.

The National Oceanic Atmospheric and Administration issued an official El Nino watch Thursday. An El Nino is a warming of the central Pacific



Mike Halpert, acting director of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, says the El Nino warming should develop by this summer, but that there are no guarantees. Although early signs are appearing already a few hundred feet below the ocean surface, meteorologists say an El Nino started to brew in 2012 and then shut down suddenly and unexpectedly.

The flip side of El Nino is called a La Nina, which has a general cooling effect. It has been much more frequent than El Ninos lately, with five La Ninas and two small-to-moderate El Ninos in the past nine years. The last big El Nino was 1997-1998. Neither has appeared since mid-2012. El Ninos are usually strongest from December to April.

Kevin Trenberth, a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, who wasn't part of NOAA's forecast, agreed that an El Nino is brewing.

"This could be a substantial event and I think we're due," Trenberth said. "And I think it

could have major consequences."

Scientific studies have tied El Ninos to farming and fishing problems and to upticks in insect-born disease, such as malaria. Commodity traders even track El Nino cycles. A study by Texas A&M University economics professor Bruce McCarl found the last big El Nino of 1997-1998 cost about \$3 billion in agricultural damage.

Trenberth said this El Nino may even push the globe out of a decade-long slowdown in temperature increase, "so suddenly global warming kicks into a whole new level."

Halpert, however, says El Ninos can be beneficial, and that the one being forecast is "a perfect case."

After years of dryness and low reservoirs, an El Nino's wet weather would be welcome in places like California, Halpert said.

"If they get too much rain, I think they'd rather have that situation rather than another year of drought," Halpert said. "Sometimes you have to pick your poison."

EPA restricts sulfur in gasoline to help cut auto emissions

By NEELA BANERJEE
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—The Environmental Protection Agency issued final rules Monday to slash the amount of sulfur in gasoline, which would help cut smog-causing pollution from autos and bring the rest of the country's fuel supply in line with California's standards.

The new rule for "Tier 3" gasoline calls for reducing the amount of sulfur in fuel by two-thirds, to 10 parts per million from 30 parts per million. Similar low-sulfur gasoline is already in use in California, Europe, Japan and South Korea.

The new gasoline would be available at the pump by January 2017.

Cutting sulfur improves the efficiency of catalytic converters in automobiles, which helps remove other pollutants that dirty the air and damage public health. The EPA said once the new rule was fully in place, it could "help avoid up to 2,000 premature deaths per year and 50,000 cases of respiratory ailments in children."

"These standards are a win for public health, a win for our environment and a win for our pocketbooks," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

Environmentalists, regulators and public health advocates welcomed the new regulation.

"This rule is a huge deal," said S. William Becker, executive director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, a group of state

regulators. The organization estimated the rule would have the effect of removing 33 million cars from the road.

"Every metropolitan area in the country will benefit from it," Becker said. "We know of no other air pollution control strategy that provides as substantial, cost-effective and immediate emission reductions as Tier 3."

The auto industry is among the rule's biggest supporters because the new sulfur standards allow for a consistent national approach, instead of one in which a separate sulfur standard exists in California.

The new fuel standards also would provide gasoline that would make auto companies' technology perform better.

"Since the vehicle emission system and the fuel used act together in determining the emissions performance of the vehicle, automakers need cleaner fuels to achieve the lowest possible emissions," said Michael Robinson, vice president of sustainability at General Motors Co.

The EPA said the new lower-sulfur fuel would add less than a penny to the price of a gallon of gasoline. The oil industry, however, disputed the EPA's estimate, calling it oversimplified.

The American Petroleum Institute, the industry's primary lobbyist, contends that the new sulfur standard would add 6 to 9 cents to every gallon of gasoline. The industry estimated that refiners would have to spend a total of \$10 billion on new equipment.

"Any reform that increases

the cost of manufacturing a product would put pressure on the price of that product," said Bob Greco, director of refining and marketing for the American Petroleum Institute. "The costs being borne by industry are making it less competitive and affecting the consumer."

Greco also said that mandating the production of the new low-sulfur fuel by 2017 was too fast and that the EPA usually gave the industry four to five years to comply with new rules. He said that his organization was reviewing the lengthy regulation and considering next steps, including the possibility of litigation.

McCarthy countered that the American Petroleum Institute's estimate was based on outdated studies. Further, smaller refineries would have until 2025 to comply with the new standards.

Eleven years ago, California implemented a series of measures to reduce the sulfur content in gasoline from 80 parts per million to about nine now, said Stanley Young, a spokesman for the California Air Resources Board.

The state estimated that the standard added six-tenths of a cent to the price of a gallon of gasoline, closer to the EPA's estimate.

"It was in a large package of rules to tighten emissions for vehicles, and it was probably the least controversial part of the whole thing," said Daniel Sperling, a member of the board and professor of transportation engineering at the University of California, Davis.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—They may look like guts stuffed in cellophane, but five fish hauled up from near-record depths off the coast of New Zealand are providing scientists with new insights into how deep fish can survive.

In a paper published this week in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, scientists from the U.S., Britain and New Zealand describe catching translucent hadal snailfish at a depth of 7 kilometers (4.3 miles).

By measuring levels of a compound in the fish that helps offset the effects of pressure, the scientists say they've concluded that fish likely can't survive below about 8,200 meters (5.1 miles). That would mean no fish at all live in the deepest one-quarter of the world's oceans.

The snailfish have little pigmentation due to the lack of light in their environment, hence their translucent appearance.

New Zealand marine ecologist Ashley Rowden, a co-author of the paper, said nobody had caught a snailfish in nearly 60 years and so he wasn't overly hopeful when they sent down a box-like trap into the Kermadec Trench near New Zealand in late 2011.

He said they used mackerel as bait to attract the small sandhopper-like creatures the snailfish feed upon.

"When it came up, it was just amazing to see. It was 'Oh my God, we've got the fish, and we've got more than one,'" Rowden said.

How deep can a fish go? Scientists may have answer



This photo taken in late 2011 and released by University of Aberdeen, shows hadal snailfish 7,500 meters down, at the bottom of the Kermadec Trench near New Zealand. Scientists say the snailfish are providing new insights into how deep fish can survive.

the net was hauled in.

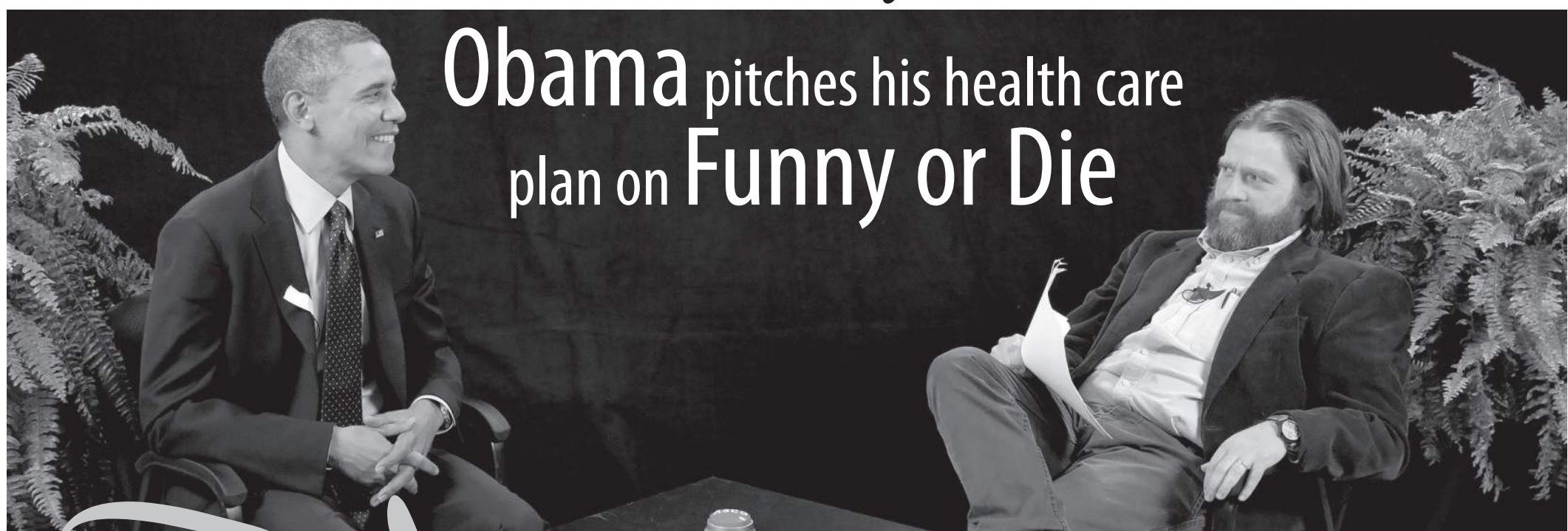
The paper's lead author, Paul Yancey of Whitman College in Washington state, said they were able to measure the levels in the fish of trimethylamine oxide, a molecule that protects proteins from pressure. He said there appears to be a natural limit to the amount of the molecule a fish can contain.

Yancey said the molecule is already being studied for its human applications, including in the treatment of glaucoma.

Meanwhile, he said, if the hadal snailfish look strange enough, they would smell terrible when they decompose. That, he said, is because the molecule has another property—it gives fish their distinctive smell, so the deeper they live, the stronger they stink.

Yancey is keeping his snailfish on ice.

Life & Style



This image from video released by Funny Or Die shows President Obama, left, with actor-comedian Zach Galifianakis during an appearance on "Between Two Ferns," the digital short with a laser focus on reaching people aged 18 to 34.

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Zach Galifianakis brought the ferns, and President Barack Obama opened a new avenue of presidential communication.

The president urged young people to sign up for the new health care plan through an appearance posted Tuesday on the comic website Funny or Die, bypassing the news media and even previous favorites like TV talk show titans Jimmy Fallon and David Letterman. Instead, he chose to be a guest on Galifianakis' "Between Two Ferns," the digital short with a laser focus on reaching people ages 18 to 34.

Netflix's "House of Cards." And in presidential annals, it breaks form much like Richard Nixon did with his awkward jokes on television's "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In."

In the clip, Galifianakis peppered Obama with awkward questions, including whether he'd locate his presidential library in Hawaii or Kenya.

"What's it like to be the last black president?" he asked.

"Seriously?" Obama said. "What's it like for this to be the last time you ever talk to a president?"

Galifianakis feigned annoyance when Obama, about halfway through the 6-minute clip, began urging young people to sign up for health care, sighing heavily before muttering, "Here we go."

"I think it's fair to say I wouldn't be here today if I didn't have something to plug," Obama said. As he went on, the "Hangover" star asked: "Is this what they mean by drones?"

Funny or Die was launched by Will Ferrell and partners in 2007 and has gone beyond being a niche location. There have been about 20 "Between Two Ferns" episodes, drawing an average of 6 million viewers each, and the Obama appearance is expected to go well beyond that number. Funny or Die gets 19 million unique visitors a month and has 7.8 million followers on Twitter and 5.5 million likes on Facebook.

Television talk show appearances have since become an accepted part of the political circuit. The Obama administration hasn't ignored this: First lady Michelle Obama appeared on a skit last month in Fallon's first week at "Tonight." Vice President Joe Biden was on Meyers' first show. The president played along with Fallon's "slow jam the news" skit in talking about student loans in 2012, when he was running for re-election.

As hip as Fallon and Kimmel may be in some circles, their audiences skew older—a median age of 52.7 for Fallon and 56.2 for Kimmel during the last week of February, the Nielsen company said.

For Web entertainment, it's a moment that rivals Emmy or Golden Globe nominations for

Obama pitches his health care plan on Funny or Die

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

pearances with LinkedIn, Google and Twitter, said presidential spokesman Joshua Earnest. But it wasn't quite like Galifianakis questioning him about whether there's another presidential pardon for a turkey in order or showing him a rash on his arm.

"The video enabled the president to deliver his message very clearly but in a way that's fresh and appealing to a young audience," said Susan Etlinger, an Internet analyst for the Altimeter Group. "It's almost cynical but in a sincere way."

The White House began talking with Funny or Die last summer about ways to promote the health care plan, and the site has posted several comic videos about the topic, said Mike Farah, production president of the site and executive producer of "Between Two Ferns." The interview was taped two weeks ago.

"What I really love about the video is that it's a funny 'Between Two Ferns' first," Farah said. At the end, the interview's black backdrop collapses and it's revealed the White House is where the appearance was taped—the joke being that's where Galifianakis does all his shows.

In the first few hours, 96 percent of the site's visitors judged the video funny, meaning it had reached immortal status on the site, he said.

As 2016 approaches, no doubt other politicians will be watching its impact.

Not everyone was amused, though. On Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends," host Brian Kilmeade said the video was inappropriate and "pretty tragic."

Carney was asked whether some presidential dignity was compromised.

"We obviously assess opportunities that we have and, you know, look at whether they're going to be successful and wise," he said. "And I think we made the right call here."

He's done interactive Web ap-

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending March 10, 2014:

TOP SONGS

- 1 Happy (From "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams
- 2 All of Me, John Legend
- 3 Talk Dirty (feat. 2 Chainz), Jason Derulo
- 4 Let It Go, Idina Menzel
- 5 Dark Horse (feat. Juicy J), Katy Perry
- 6 Pompeii, Bastille
- 7 The Man, Aloe Blacc
- 8 Magic, Coldplay
- 9 #SELFIE, The Chainsmokers
- 10 Team, Lorde

TOP ALBUMS

- 1 Mastermind, Rick Ross
- 2 GIRL, Pharrell Williams
- 3 Frozen, Various Artists
- 4 Ghost Stories, Coldplay
- 5 Louder, Lea Michele
- 6 100 - EP, KB
- 7 LOVE LUST FAITH + DREAMS, Thirty Seconds to Mars
- 8 Oxymoron, Schoolboy Q
- 9 Pure Heroine, Lorde
- 10 Morning Phase, Beck

Spotify's Top 10 most viral tracks, based on the number of people who shared it divided by the number who listened to it, from Monday, Mar. 3, to Sunday March 9, via Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter and Spotify.

UNITED STATES

- 1 Chromeo, "Jealous (I Ain't With It)" (Big Beat Records)
- 2 Coldplay, "Magic" (Parlophone UK)
- 3 Iggy Azalea, "Fancy" (Virgin EMI Records)
- 4 The Chainsmokers, "#SELFIE - Original Mix" (Dim Mak Inc.)
- 5 Porter Robinson, "Sea Of Voices" (Sample Sized, LLC)
- 6 Various Artists, "The Moon Song - Studio Version" (WaterTower Music)
- 7 Philips Philips, "Raging Fire" (19 Recordings, Inc.)
- 8 MØ, "Say You'll Be There" (Chess Club/RCA Victor)
- 9 Atmosphere, "Bitter" (Rhymesayers)
- 10 Rick Ross, "Sanctified" (Def Jam Records)

UNITED KINGDOM

- 1 Coldplay, "Magic" (Parlophone UK)
- 2 The Handsome Family, "Far From Any Road" (Loose Music)
- 3 MØ, "Say You'll Be There" (Chess Club/RCA Victor)
- 4 Tove Lo, "Stay High - Habits Remix" (Universal Music AB)
- 5 Nick Mulvey, "Cucurucu" (Fiction Records)
- 6 A Great Big World, "Everyone Is Gay" (Epic Records)
- 7 The Chainsmokers, "#SELFIE - Original Mix" (Dim Mak Inc.)
- 8 Teagan And Sara, "Everything Is AWESOME!!!" (ft. The Loney Island) (WaterTower Music)
- 9 Pharrell Williams, "Gust Of Wind" (Columbia Records)
- 10 Franois & The Atlas Mountains, "La Vérité" (Domino Recording Co.)

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending March 10, 2014:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

- 1 Bridge Constructor, Headup Games GmbH & Co KG
- 2 Duet Game, Kumobius
- 3 Minecraft - Pocket Edition, Mojang
- 4 Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
- 5 Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
- 6 Afterlight, Simon Filip
- 7 Card Wars - Adventure Time, Cartoon Network
- 8 Threes!, Sirvo LLC
- 9 Sleep Cycle alarm clock, Northcube AB
- 10 Papa's Freezeria To Go!, Flipline Studios

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

- 1 Smash Hit, Mediocre AB

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

- 1 Minecraft - Pocket Edition, Mojang
- 2 The Room Two, Fireproof Games
- 3 Card Wars - Adventure Time, Cartoon Network
- 4 Toca Pet Doctor, Toca Boca AB
- 5 Block Fortress: War, Foursaken Media
- 6 Calling All Mixels, Cartoon Network
- 7 Survivalcraft, Igor Kalicinski
- 8 Bridge Constructor, Headup Games GmbH & Co KG
- 9 Duet Game, Kumobius
- 10 The Room, Fireproof Games

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

- 1 Smash Hit, Mediocre AB
- 2 Disney Movies Anywhere - Watch Your Disney, Pixar and Marvel Movies!, Disney
- 3 Flappy Wings - FREE, Green Chili Games UG (haftungsbeschränkt)
- 4 Farm Heroes, Saga King.com Limited
- 5 Frontline Commando 2, Glu Games Inc.
- 6 Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
- 7 Baby Food Fair - Make, Eat, Play - Have Fun!, Kids Fun Club by TabTale
- 8 Calculator for iPad Free, International Travel Weather Calculator
- 9 YouTube, Google, Inc.
- 10 Flappy Fall, Balloon Island

The top 10 books on Apple's iBooks for week ending March 10, 2014:

TOP PAID BOOKS

- 1 Divergent by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
- 2 Insurgent by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
- 3 Allegiant by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
- 4 Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup (Atria / 37 Ink)
- 5 The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (Penguin Group US)
- 6 Uganda Be Kidding Me by Chelsea Handler (Grand Central Publishing)
- 7 The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt (Little, Brown and Company)
- 8 Sycamore Row by John Grisham (Knopf Doubleday Publishing)
- 9 Private L.A. by James Patterson & Mark Sullivan (Little, Brown and Company)
- 10 Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic Inc.)
- 11 Just To Be With You by Bella Andre (Oak Press, LLC)
- 12 The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty (Penguin Group US)
- 13 Words of Radiance by Brandon Sanderson (Tom Doherty Associates)
- 14 The Blood Sugar Solution 10-Day Detox Diet by Mark Hyman, M.D. (Little, Brown and Company)
- 15 The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd (Penguin Group US)
- 16 Fifty Shades of Grey by E L James (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
- 17 Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand (Random House Publishing Group)
- 18 The Bootlegger by Clive Cussler & Justin Scott (Penguin Group US)
- 19 The Chase by Janet Evanovich & Lee Goldberg (Random House Publishing Group)
- 20 The Finisher by David Baldacci (Scholastic Inc.)

Cameraman recounts Crocodile Hunter's last moments

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia's famed "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin knew he was dying after a massive stingray stabbed him in the chest hundreds of times, the only witness to the fatal 2006 attack said in his first detailed public account of the beloved conservationist's death.

"We're saying to him things like, 'Think of your kids, Steve—hang on, hang on, hang on,'" Justin Lyons, Irwin's long-time cameraman, told Australia's Studio 10 morning show this week. "And he just sort of calmly looked up at me and said, 'I'm dying.' And that was the last thing he said."

In the nearly eight years since Irwin's death, Lyons has said little publicly about how the fatal encounter with the stingray unfolded. Now, he said, he wants to clarify exactly how Irwin died, including dismissing reports that his friend pulled the stingray's barb out of his own chest.

"The stories at the time of Steve's death—none of them were accurate because no one else was there," Lyons said in an interview Wednesday. "And that always bothered me."

Lyons is also speaking out now because he has just finished producing a documentary, "E-Motion," which examines the impact that repressing negative emotions can have on the body.

"I thought that it was a great way to illustrate my experience with Steve; holding onto these traumatic events can be very, very bad," he said Wednesday. "I'm happy that I've finally spoken about it publicly. It has been, I guess, a weight on my shoulders."

Lyons still vividly remembers the day he lost his friend, who rose to fame via his TV series, "The Crocodile Hunter." The two were shooting a wildlife

Mo Yan, Jelinek finalists for best translated book

ROCHESTER, New York (AP)—Nobel laureates Mo Yan and Elfriede Jelinek are among the finalists for a prize honoring fiction translated into English.

University of Rochester-based Three Percent announced the long list of 25 nominees Tuesday for the Best Translated Book Award. The winning author and translator each will receive \$5,000 from Amazon.com.

Twenty countries and 16 languages are represented on the list.

Included on the list are Mo Yan's "Sandalwood Death," translated from Chinese by Howard Goldblatt, and Jelinek's "Her Not All Her," translated from German by Damion Searls.

Winners will be announced April 28.

Poetry finalists will be announced April 15, and poetry winners will be announced April 28.

documentary in the Great Barrier Reef when they spotted an 8-foot-wide stingray.

They had been filming the creature for several minutes in chest-deep water and decided to try and get one final shot of the stingray swimming away. Suddenly, the animal began wildly stabbing Irwin with the barb on its tail—hundreds of strikes within seconds, Lyons said. The barb went through his chest "like a hot knife through butter," piercing his heart, Lyons said.

"It probably thought that Steve's shadow was a tiger shark, which feeds on them very regularly," Lyons told Studio 10. "I didn't even know it had caused any damage. It wasn't until I panned the camera back that Steve was standing in a huge pool of blood that I realized something had gone wrong."

Lyons and his crew threw him into their boat and put pressure on the gash over Irwin's heart, which was seeping blood, and Lyons performed CPR. But the damage was too severe. The 44-year-old died later that day, leaving behind his wife, Terri, and two young children.

The fact that Irwin—who was notorious for his extremely



In this June 18, 1999 file photo, Steve Irwin, "The Crocodile Hunter" holds a nine-foot female alligator accompanied by his American wife Terri, who is from Eugene, Oregon, at his "Australia Zoo" in Beerwah, Queensland, Australia.

close encounters with crocodiles, sharks and other potentially lethal animals—died after a run-in with a normally docile creature shocked the public. But Lyons said he always had a

sense his friend would meet an unusual end.

"It was never going to be a croc or a shark," he said Wednesday. "He was so good with animals."

Doris Day plans animal-friendly birthday bash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Screen legend Doris Day is celebrating a landmark birthday with an auction to benefit her favorite cause: animals.

A spokesman for Day said Tuesday the nonprofit Doris Day Animal Foundation will mark her 90th birthday in April with a bash in Carmel, Calif.

A sold-out fundraising celebration at Day's Cypress Inn will include a doggie fashion show, adoption event and an April 4 tribute dinner for fans and friends.

Items autographed by Day

and celebrity pals including Paul McCartney and Tony Bennett will be auctioned off online and at the dinner. Online bidding ends April 1.

In a statement, Day said she doesn't care much for celebrating birthdays with cards or gifts, inviting fans to help animals instead. As Day put it: "I'm all about the four-leggers."

Day was born on April 3, 1924, spokesman Charley Walters said, although other sources list her birth year as 1923. As a teenager, she sometimes provided different ages to

get work and that may have led to confusion, Walters said.

Day starred in more than three dozen films from the 1940s to the 1960s, including "Pillow Talk" and "Calamity Jane," and recorded hit songs including "Que Sera, Sera." She released the compilation album "My Heart" in 2011.

She lives in the seaside city of Carmel in Northern California and has devoted herself to animal welfare since stepping out of show business.

"There is so much work still to do to rescue animals, and to inform people about the importance of spaying and neutering their pets," Day said.

The initial March trial date was postponed while attorneys for news organizations and Bieber wrestled with release of police videos of him giving a urine sample for a drug test. Those videos were made public last week with sensitive segments blacked out.

Bieber and R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff were arrested Jan. 23 in Miami Beach after what police called an illegal drag race with high-end sports cars. Breath tests showed Bieber's blood-alcohol content was below the 0.02 limit for underage drivers. Other tests detected marijuana and Xanax.

Miami-Dade County Judge William Altfeld said Sharieff has a separate April 7 trial date

on a DUI charge. He too has pleaded not guilty.

Black was also asked about a deposition Bieber gave last week in a lawsuit filed by a photographer who claims he was roughed up and threatened by one of the singer's bodyguards. Video of that deposition quickly began appearing on Internet sites, which Black criticized Tuesday as an invasion of Bieber's privacy.

Among other things, Black said, Bieber was asked in the deposition about topics such as his relationships with singers Selena Gomez and Usher "that had nothing to do with the case." A judge previously denied motions to keep Bieber's deposition sealed, he added.

"He has absolutely no privacy," Black said. "There's absolutely no protection for somebody like Justin."

Boy given up for adoption returns to mixed welcome

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: When I was in my early 20s, I had a baby boy I placed for adoption. I could barely take care of myself, let alone a newborn. The father wanted nothing to do with me or the baby, so I placed him with his relatives out of state, who adopted him. With counseling, I got my life back on track, finished college and got a good job. I am married now and have a family.

After 20 years, this child, "Fred," called me. We talked every night for a few weeks and I invited him here to live with me. BIG MISTAKE! Long story short, Fred is greedy, lazy and expects everyone to wait on him. He refuses to look for a job or go to school, and he expects me to pay all his expenses.

I called his adoptive family. They said when things don't go his way, Fred pouts and doesn't communicate until he needs money. They feel exactly as I do—he should get a job or go to school.

Abby, my family loves Fred and welcomed him with open arms, but I feel detached from him. As soon as I learned I was pregnant, I began separating myself because I knew it would be difficult to let go. I do not regard Fred as a member of my family and have no maternal feelings for him. I'd be OK if I knew he was doing well—from a distance. But I'd prefer not to maintain a relationship. I don't love this young man, and I don't know what to say when he says, "Love you, Mom."

Am I wrong to feel this way? Is there anyone else out there who feels as I do? My family is trying to guilt me into accepting him, but I can't. It's not because of his greedy behavior, although that's part of it. Have others had a similar experience?

SINCERELY NOT HIS MOM

DEAR SINCERELY: I'm printing your letter because although many adoption reunions go well, not all of them do. If other birth mothers would like to share their experiences, I'm inviting them to do so.

However, I do have this to offer: Do NOT allow yourself to be trapped into doing anything with which you are not comfortable. Your feelings may be based on the circumstances surrounding Fred's birth. They may also result from your disappointment in his lack of character. While you will always be Fred's birth mother, you are NOT his "mom." That distinction belongs to the woman who raised him.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My brother is dating one of my employees. She has one of those "take charge" personalities. She's pushy and she's trying to worm her way into the family.

At work I can keep her at bay, but at family events she's out of control. She insists on doing and cooking everything—including cleaning my mother's house, which isn't dirty, by the way.

My older brothers' significant others have noticed, but being the only daughter, I'm at my wits' end. She won't take "no thanks" for an answer. I am sick of her "I'll get this, I've got it, it's OK" attitude.

I'm trying to keep my brother's happiness in mind and not cause a scene, but I'm afraid I'll lose it one of these days. Any advice?

I, TOO, CAN ORGANIZE A PICNIC

DEAR I, TOO: Has it occurred to you that your brother's girlfriend (your employee) may be desperate to be accepted, which is why she's going to such great lengths to please? My advice is to relax, because her efforts are no reflection on you. I'm sure you have done your part at many family functions. If her efforts are alienating the other significant others, perhaps they can stage an "intervention" and get her to calm down. In the meantime, hang onto your temper.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

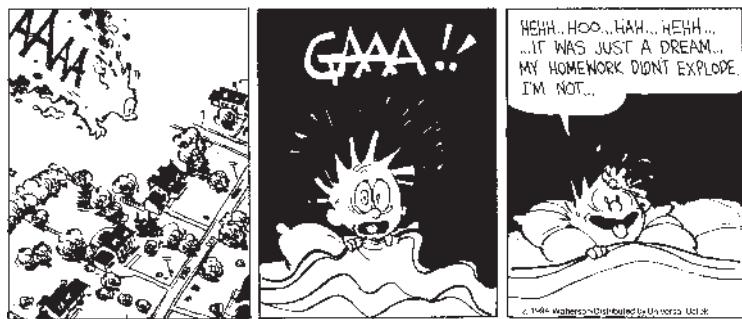
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Dear Abby

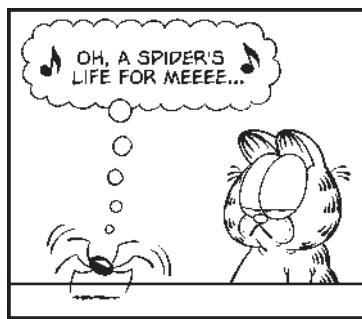
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



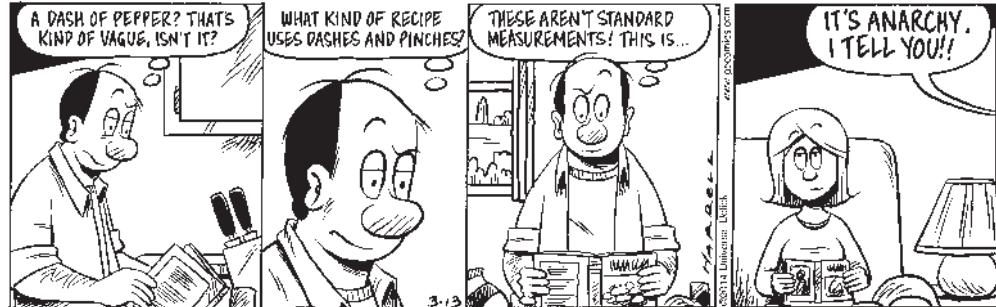
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

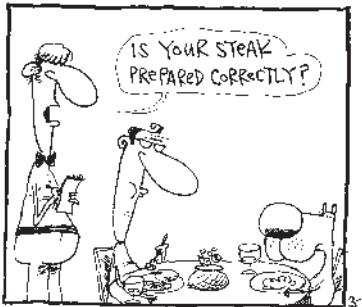


By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS				DOWN			
1 Cock and bull?	41 Jewel	42 Tavern	43 President	21 Weeps	22 One	23 Ump	24
4 Coffee	44 Presiden-	45 middle	46 Word in	25 Stock	26 Market	27 Name	28
8 Hendrix of rock	47 name	48 Einstein's equation	49 Algon-	28 Violinist	29 Niccolò	30 Bad sign,	31
12 Eggs	50 Wrestling	51 Word in	52 Chieftain	31 —	32 —	33 —	34
13 Culture medium	53 Family	54 Talk	55 Passion	34 —	35 Wander	36 —	37
14 Grand-scale	56 Member	57 Win	58 Wicked	37 —	38 Golf	39 —	40
15 Tramp	59 Member	60 Moving	61 Wicked	40 —	41 Alter	42 —	43
17 — out (fall asleep)	62 Take the bus	63 Trucks	64 Woman of the Bible	43 —	44 Rock	45 —	46
18 Wall Street whiz, for short	65 State	66 Moving	67 Heroine	44 —	45 Role	46 —	47
19 When my prince will come	68 Zero	69 Product	70 Dracula	47 —	48 Pound	49 —	50
21 Hot time?	71 Commodities	72 Zero	73 Heroine	51 —	52 Slangily	53 —	54
24 Abrade	74 Short	75 Product	76 Heroine	55 —	56 —	57 —	58
25 Lennon's lady	77 —	78 Product	79 Heroine	59 —	60 —	61 —	62
26 Crimson	79 —	80 Product	81 Heroine	63 —	64 —	65 —	66
28 Station	81 —	82 Product	83 Heroine	67 —	68 —	69 —	70
32 Avian creature	83 —	84 Product	85 Heroine	71 —	72 —	73 —	74
34 Visibility hindrance	85 —	86 Product	87 Heroine	75 —	76 —	77 —	78
36 Dalai —	87 —	88 Product	89 Heroine	79 —	80 —	81 —	82
37 Precipitous	89 —	90 Product	91 Heroine	83 —	84 —	85 —	86
39 Bankroll	91 —	92 Product	93 Heroine	87 —	88 —	89 —	90
				95 —	96 —	97 —	98
				99 —	100 —	101 —	102

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-13

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:
Adam Clayton, 54; Dana Delany, 58; William H. Macy, 64; Neil Sedaka, 75.

Happy Birthday: You can share knowledge or relay information, but do your best not to exaggerate this year. The simple truth will get you much further ahead in the end. Strategy, analytics and precision will help you achieve the success you desire. Protect your physical and emotional comfort and health. Don't tempt fate when it comes to personal relationships. Your numbers are 6, 13, 19, 26, 31, 39, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let impulse get the better of you. Take a moment to decipher all the angles before you make an impromptu decision that can affect your reputation, status or position. A partnership or collaboration will help you stay on track. **★★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stick to your principles and follow through with the plans you have in place. Someone you have worked with in the past will have a lead or want to do you a favor, but double check the information or ask for an offer in writing. **★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your efforts into work, money, getting along with your colleagues and applying for any kind of advancement up for grabs. Love is on the rise, and an emotional conversation will bring you closer to better living arrangements. **★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Bypass anyone creating problems or trying to drag you into an altercation or no-win situation. You don't need to invite unnecessary

change into your life when it's obvious you should be innovative and developing what you have already started. **★★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make changes that will bring you joy and happiness. Whether you focus on self-improvement or making positive changes to your personal life and relationships, you will end up satisfied with the choice you make. Investments are favored. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Find out the source of any tidbit of information that comes your way before sharing with others. It is likely that someone will mislead you in order to buy time. What you offer may end up being used against you. Sit tight and observe. **★★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be railroaded by someone who is pushy or demanding. You must make choices based on what's best for you. Mentally and physically, you can achieve happiness and success if you follow your heart and your intuition. Put love first. **★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stick to creative projects, travel or exploring places you have never been before. An emotional issue that affects your living arrangement must be dealt with cautiously. Someone from your past can be of help to you now. **★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen to what's being said and assess the situation thoroughly before you proceed. An exaggeration is likely to perk your interest, but shouldn't entice you to get involved in something risky. Focus on love and personal improvement. **★★★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Move in a direction that will allow you to follow your personal or professional goals. Don't worry about the changes others make. Keep moving forward and walk away from anyone looking for a fight. Disagreements will not help you get ahead. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Assess your situation and make your move. Don't linger when timing will be crucial with regard to what you achieve. Make changes based on intuitive intelligence and you will find a way to secure any legal or financial matter you face. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Tie up loose ends. Look over important papers and investments that can help you raise your standard of living. Personal changes based on hidden assets or money that comes from an unusual source will improve your financial situation. **★★★★**

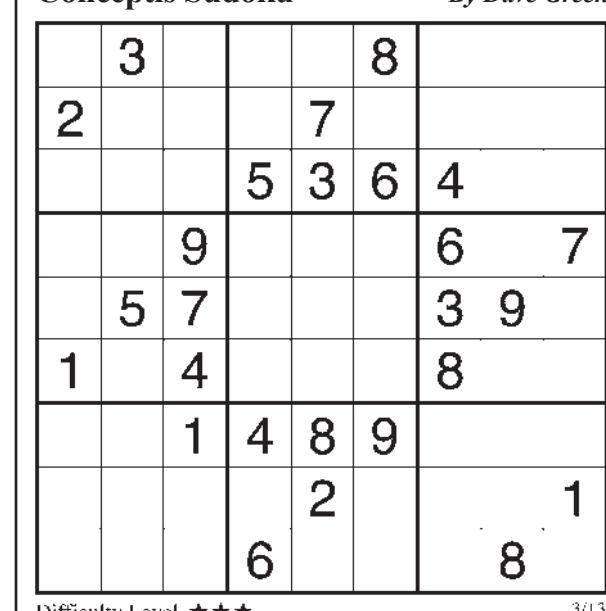
Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, intuitive and full of good ideas. You are conniving.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

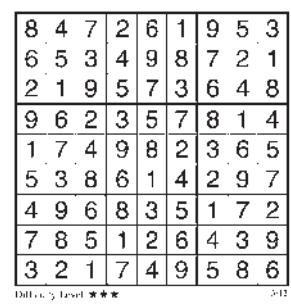
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM. LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GRADUATION PHOTOS

By DAVID OUELLET

Solution: 7 letters



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Attire, Award, Background, Blouse, Capture, Ceremony, Class, Color, Dress, Enhancements, Frame, Friends, Grades, Hair, Headshot, Hood, Keepsakes, Makeup, Milestone, Military, Online, Order, Pose, Pre-book, Proofs, Props, Robe, Sash, School, Senior, Sepia, Session, Setting, Skirt, Smile, Studio, Success, Suit, Tassel, Teams, Tie, Toga, Toss, Uniform
Yesterday's Answer: Scholarships
To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, order online at wonderword.universalclick.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS



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1 General Manager (Accounting): \$1,000-2,000/mo. 4 years of managerial experience required. Must have majored in accounting. 10 years of accounting experience required. Korean writing and speaking fluency required. Email resume to hts@hanmisaipan.com.

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- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church;
- Knowledge in Quickbook's accounting software preferred;
- Minimum 2 years work experience in a Christian school

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- NAD denominational degree preferred;
- Must be qualified to teach elementary English;
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Ginobili leads Spurs past Bulls, 104-96



CHICAGO (AP)—It didn't take long for the San Antonio Spurs to show the Chicago Bulls why they're leading the NBA.

Manu Ginobili scored 22 points and Tony Parker had 20 points and nine assists, and the Spurs beat the Bulls 104-96 Tuesday night for their seventh straight win and 10th in their last 11.

San Antonio jumped out to a big advantage early, taking a 38-14 lead after one quarter and going up 61-33 into halftime. That helped them improve to 24-6 on the road, the NBA's best mark away from home.

Kawhi Leonard added 16 and nine rebounds for the Spurs (47-16), who maintained their hold on the NBA's best record. With the win they stayed a half-game ahead of Oklahoma City and Indiana, who both won.

"Wonderful game, we were very sharp," Ginobili said. "We made a lot of shots in the beginning, which gave us a lead that ... it's easier to play like that."

Parker had 18 at halftime and went 8 for 15 from the field for a team that made 51 percent overall against one of the NBA's best defensive clubs. Ginobili was 9 of 11.

Also the league's top 3-point shooting team at 39.2 percent, San Antonio made 12 of 21 from behind the arc, including four from Ginobili.

That and the big first half added up to another win for the Spurs, who are 14-3 since a 96-86 loss to Chicago on Jan. 29 and can improve on that Wednesday at home against Portland. The Spurs' roster is finally healthy, something coach Gregg Popovich noted.

"We seem like we're playing pretty consistently now," Popovich said. "I don't think we're going to win every game down the stretch."

The Bulls, meanwhile, were coming off a dramatic 95-88



AP
Chicago Bulls shooting guard Jimmy Butler (21) shoots over San Antonio Spurs power forward Tim Duncan, rear, during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, in Chicago.

win Sunday over the Heat but couldn't build off that victory, falling to 1-2 on a season-high six-game homestand that also has games with the Rockets, Kings and Thunder.

Coach Tom Thibodeau blamed himself for the slow start.

"I told them, that's completely on me. My job is to have them ready. We had no edge to us," Thibodeau said. "That's a championship-caliber team that's playing on all cylinders and they're going after it, so if you don't match that intensity to start, you are going to get in a big hole."

"So I didn't prepare them the way they needed to be prepared for that, so that's on me."

D.J. Augustin led the Bulls with 24 points and Jimmy Butler had 23. Joakim Noah, whose name has started to be mentioned in MVP discussions, had 13 and eight rebounds.

That all was a far cry from

Sunday, when the Bulls held Miami to 40.5 percent shooting and overcame a 42.2 percent shooting game of their own. That didn't happen Tuesday for the Bulls, who were 43 percent from the field.

"It's on us," Butler said. "We're the ones out there playing, so we have to bring it each and every night. Thibs can only do so much. You learn from it."

The Bulls saw early how costly a slow start can be, only pulling to within eight late in the fourth quarter.

Ginobili's reverse layup with a second left in the period gave San Antonio a 38-14 lead after the first. The Spurs ended the half leading by 28 and hitting 61 percent from the field, looking like a team peaking.

Ginobili, however, hopes they aren't doing that too early.

"It's not the right time yet. Still 20 games to go," Ginobili said.

Pacers 94, Celtics 83

In Indianapolis, David West scored 24 points and Andrew Bynum grabbed a season-high 10 rebounds in his Pacers debut, helping suddenly struggling Indiana pull away late for a win over Boston.

Indiana (47-17) ended its longest losing streak of the season at four. Paul George added 12 points as the Pacers extended their Eastern Conference lead to 1½ games over two-time defending champion Miami in the East.

Boston (22-42) was led by Jared Sullinger with 17 points and Kris Humphries with 15 as its two-game winning streak ended.

Bynum played just 15 minutes but his first basket gave Indiana a 16-14 lead and the Pacers never trailed again.

Thunder 106, Rockets 98

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant

scored 42 points to help the Oklahoma City Thunder defeat the Houston Rockets.

Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook scored 24 points and got the best of nemesis Patrick Beverley. During last year's playoffs, Beverley dived for the ball and ran into Westbrook's right knee as a timeout was being called, causing the injury that ended Westbrook's season and cost him about half of this season. It was their first meeting since the incident.

Serge Ibaka had 12 points and 16 rebounds for the Thunder, who had lost two straight.

Former Thunder guard James Harden scored 28 points.

Pistons 99, Kings 89

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Josh Smith scored 24 points and Rodney Stuckey added 23 to lift the Detroit Pistons over the Sacramento Kings.

Andre Drummond added 15 points and eight rebounds for Detroit, outscoring DeMarcus Cousins in a matchup of two of the NBA's top young big men. Cousins had 13 points and 14 rebounds but shot 5 of 15 from the field.

Detroit trailed 54-52 at halftime but outscored the Kings 20-11 in the third quarter.

Rudy Gay scored 20 points and Isaiah Thomas added 19 points and eight assists for Sacramento.

The Pistons snapped a three-game losing streak and pulled to within three games of Atlanta for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Timberwolves 112, Bucks 101

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 27 points, 10 rebounds and six assists and J.J. Barea broke out of a horrid shooting slump to score 19 points to lift the Minnesota Timberwolves over the Milwaukee Bucks.

After going 5 for 25 in his previous three games, Barea hit 7 of 10 shots to help wake the sluggish Wolves up and Kevin

Martin scored 26 points to help them finish a four-game homestand at 2-2.

Brandon Knight scored 21 points for the Bucks (13-51), who led at halftime and were looking for their first set of back-to-back victories this season. But after scoring 61 points in the first half and leading by 11 points in the second quarter, the Bucks were outscored 19-4 to start the fourth quarter.

Grizzlies 109, Trail Blazers 99

In Memphis, Tennessee, Marc Gasol scored 19 points, Zach Randolph added 18 points and 12 rebounds as the Memphis Grizzlies solidified their hold on the final Western Conference playoff spot with a victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Mike Conley added 17 points and Courtney Lee finished with 16, including helping the Grizzlies extend their lead in the third quarter. Mike Miller had 14 for Memphis, which won its third straight.

Damian Lillard led the Trail Blazers with 32 points.

Warriors 108, Mavericks 85

In Oakland, California, Jordan Crawford scored 19 points, and Andrew Bogut had 15 points and 10 rebounds as the surging Golden State Warriors routed the Dallas Mavericks for their fifth straight win.

Klay Thompson added 14 points to help the Warriors go ahead by 24 points early in the fourth quarter and create more space behind them in the crowded Western Conference standings. Golden State (41-24) is sixth in the West, three games ahead of Dallas (38-27) and Memphis (37-26).

Former Warriors fan favorite Monta Ellis scored 15 points, and Dirk Nowitzki had 12 points and six rebounds in a disappointing display by Dallas. The Warriors outshot the Mavericks 51.2 percent to 36.6 percent and outrebounded Dallas 46 to 40, showing no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

played Saturday with Johnson, he acknowledged how good he could be when he gets on a roll. And the list stopped there, right when it was starting to grow.

The ranking (determined over two years) has Henrik Stenson at No. 3, Day at No. 4, McIlroy at No. 6.

It was clear that "top five" was more figure of speech than an actual number. Anyone's list of "top five" is likely to include as many as 10 players these days.

Years ago, Colin Montgomerie jokingly said that it was hard to win majors because Woods usually won two of them, Mickelson, Vijay Singh or Ernie Els won another and that left only one for everybody else each year.

Twenty-one players have won the last 24 majors. That would seem to make it even harder.

It's getting that way for regular PGA Tour events, too.



DORAL, Fla. (AP)—The road to the Masters is just getting started, and already two players have combined to win five times on the PGA Tour.

They're not Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson.

How many would have guessed Jimmy Walker (three wins) and Patrick Reed (two wins) when the wraparound season began in October?

Reed might have had his hand up.

In a moment of bravado on national television after he went wire to wire (with ties) to win the Cadillac Championship, the 23-year-old Reed said, "I'm one of the top five players in the world. I feel like I've proven myself." He has won twice this season, three times dating to August.

Reed and Walker are the lat-

More newcomers crowding the PGA Tour landscape

est newcomers to winning on the strongest tour in golf. Harris English won in Mexico last November for his second PGA Tour title in six months. Jordan Spieth won in July, and he started this year by giving himself three chances to win.

It's just another example that winning is getting hard, even for those who are used to winning a lot.

Each season seems to bring a new crop of younger players who have a lot of game and no fear. Russell Henley won the Sony Open in his debut as a PGA Tour member. Just over a year later, he overcame a two-shot lead playing with Rory McIlroy in the final group at the Honda Classic and won a four-hole playoff.

Scott Stallings won at Torrey Pines for his third PGA Tour win. He's 28.

The last three winners of the World Golf Championships—Dustin Johnson, Jason Day and Reed—are all in their 20s. Ten of the 17 winners this season are in their 20s. That includes 26-year-old Chesson Hadley, who won the Puerto Rico Open on Sunday about the time Reed was beating the strongest field so far this year at Doral.

"Look at Russell Henley—he's won twice," Reed said. "Harris English has won twice, Jordan Spieth won once. Myself, I've won three times. It's just one of those things that we've worked very hard—all of us—to get where we are. And it's definitely shown what we are doing is working. To see the young guys coming out and playing and putting it to the veterans is always nice."

Walker turned 35 in January,

so it's hard to consider him one of the younger players. Then again, injuries slowed the start of his career. And once he finally won at the Frys.com Open to kick off the new wraparound season, he has made it a habit. Over the weekend, Walker talked about new opportunities that have come his way following his three wins. He's not interested in anything but playing good golf.

Now that he has tasted winning, his appetite is only growing.

Walker leads the FedEx Cup and the Ryder Cup standings. Johnson is No. 2 on both lists, while Reed is at No. 3 in the FedEx and No. 4 in the Ryder Cup. Five of the top nine players in the Ryder Cup standings were not on the last U.S. team at Muirfield Village for the Presidents Cup.

Remember, it's still only

March. The first of four majors has yet to be played. Reed has never even played in a major.

He rubbed a few people the wrong way when he declared himself among the top five in the world (he's actually No. 20). It showed what he thought about his game and that he's not afraid to say it.

So if he's top five, who are the other four?

"Tiger Woods, of course," Reed said.

And that was as far as he got before he smiled and said, "You know, good question. I said top 5. I didn't know where I was going to be in the top 5."

He then went on to mention Masters champion Adam Scott (No. 2 in the world) and Mickelson (No. 5). He mentioned how impressed he was with Graeme McDowell, and having

49ers acquire Jonathan Martin from Dolphins

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Jonathan Martin is returning to familiar territory, months after he accused a teammate of bullying and left the Miami Dolphins.

The offensive tackle is headed back to the Bay Area to play for Jim Harbaugh—again.

Martin was traded from Miami to the San Francisco 49ers on Tuesday night, reuniting the lineman with his college coach at Stanford and a supportive coaching staff he knows so well. In fact, Harbaugh publicly expressed his support of Martin last year and called him a “personal friend.”

The Dolphins announced the move late on the first day of NFL free agency. San Francisco then confirmed the trade, saying only that it would send an undisclosed draft choice to Miami and that Martin still must pass a physical to complete the deal.

“Big news.... Beyond Blessed ... Opportunities are few in the NFL... Can’t wait to get to work (hashtag)9erEmpire,” Martin posted on Twitter.

The 24-year-old Martin’s move cross country brings him back to Northern California, but he is already in town—back on the Stanford campus taking classes.

“This is great for him to get back on the field and he’s in Palo Alto right now. It couldn’t be much better,” his agent, Ken Zuckerman, said in a phone interview. “I just think everyone wanted this to happen. Harbaugh knows Jonathan, I think the Dolphins were compensated and Jona-



In this July 24, 2013, file photo, Miami Dolphins guard Richie Incognito (68) and tackle Jonathan Martin (71) stand on the field during NFL football practice in Davie, Fla.

than wants to get back on the field. It’s a good day.”

An investigation for the NFL determined last month that Dolphins guard Richie Incognito and two other offensive linemen engaged in persistent harassment of Martin, another offensive lineman and an assistant trainer.

“As far as that situation, there’s only one thing I can intelligently comment on and that’s knowing Jonathan Mar-

tin,” Harbaugh said in November. “I know him to be a fine person and his family. ... (He) epitomizes the student-athlete model and a personal friend. I support Jonathan.”

The trade capped a busy first day for the 49ers, who lost to the Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks in the NFC championship game.

Martin left the Dolphins in late October, underwent counseling for emotional issues

and alleged he was harassed by teammates. Incognito was then suspended for the final eight games.

“We feel that this move is in the best interests of all parties involved,” Dolphins general manager Dennis Hickey said. “We wish Jonathan well.”

After a report on the investigation was released last month, the Dolphins fired offensive line coach Jim Turner and longtime trainer Kevin O’Neill. Incognito

and guard John Jerry, who was also implicated in the report, became free agents Tuesday and aren’t expected to play for the Dolphins again.

Incognito has recently received treatment in the wake of the scandal. He sent tweets in recent weeks that varied dramatically in tone, including a rant blasting Martin that quickly went viral.

Martin’s departure from the Dolphins had been ex-

pected. Owner Stephen Ross said in January that he didn’t expect Martin to play for the team again.

The investigation for the NFL found a pattern of harassment on the Dolphins, with Martin the primary target of vicious taunts and racist insults that occurred almost daily. The report said teammates threatened to rape Martin’s sister, called him a long list of slurs and bullied him for not being “black enough.” Martin is black and Incognito is white.

The troubled relationship between Martin and Incognito drew national scrutiny and stirred a debate about bullying. Martin said he tried to be friends with Incognito despite their diverse backgrounds.

Martin was a classics major at Stanford, while Incognito, 30, was kicked off his team at Nebraska and went on to develop a reputation as one of the NFL’s dirtiest players.

Martin, who protected Andrew Luck’s blind side at Stanford, was a second-round draft pick by Miami in 2012. He became a starter as a rookie but struggled at times while being shuffled between right and left tackle.

Last year he was part of a line that allowed a franchise-record 58 sacks. The Dolphins began revamping their line Tuesday by agreeing to terms with Pro Bowl left tackle Braden Albert.

Martin has two years remaining on his contract and has a base salary of \$824,933 this year.

Pro Bowl center Mike Pouncey is the only offensive lineman involved in the bullying scandal still on Miami’s roster.

Ware, Peppers released as NFL free agency opens

A couple of accomplished NFL pass rushers suddenly became available when DeMarcus Ware and Julius Peppers were released to create room under the salary cap in two of the biggest moves at Tuesday’s start of the free-agency signing period.

The Bears cut ties with Peppers, who has 118 1/2 sacks in 12 seasons, as part of a series of moves aimed at improving their defense, including a five-year contract with former Raiders end Lamarr Houston.

The Cowboys let Ware and his 117 sacks go.

“A decision like this, involving a man who is a cornerstone player in the history of your franchise, is extremely difficult,” Dallas owner Jerry Jones said. “We were also in very strong agreement that playing for the Dallas Cowboys would be one of the options we would both be exploring.”

With the cap rising \$10 million to a record \$133 million, a crop of players quickly found new homes as soon as the mar-

ket officially opened Tuesday afternoon—and safeties and offensive linemen were popular commodities.

About 5 1/2 hours after free agency began, one of the top players available, three-time Pro Bowl safety Jairus Byrd, agreed to terms with the Saints, part of a merry-go-round of moves at his position. Other safeties swapping clubs: Michael Jenkins, from Saints to Eagles; Donte Whitner from 49ers to Browns; Antoine Bethea from Colts to 49ers; T.J. Ward from Browns to Broncos; Mike Mitchell from Panthers to Steelers; Ryan Mundy from Giants to Bears.

In addition to jettisoning Peppers and adding Houston and Mundy, Chicago agreed to one-year deals with linebackers Jordan Senn and D.J. Williams. Two of the most sought-after cornerbacks also were on the move. Alterraun Verner, who had five interceptions for Tennessee last season, agreed to a four-year contract with Tampa

Bay and Aqib Talib left New England for a six-year deal with Denver.

Verner, 25, could wind up being a replacement for Darrelle Revis, who might be traded or cut to create more salary-cap room for the Buccaneers.

Deals for offensive linemen were highlighted by Pro Bowl left tackle Branden Albert’s five-year contract with the Dolphins. Albert left Kansas City to take over the position played at the start of last season by Jonathan Martin, whose exit from Miami in October led to an NFL inquiry into bullying on the team.

Late Tuesday, Martin was traded by the Dolphins to the 49ers.

Left tackle Jared Veldheer and the Cardinals agreed to a five-year contract worth up to \$35 million. Veldheer left the Raiders, who replaced him by giving former Rams lineman Rodger Saffold a five-year deal. Another left tackle, Eugene Monroe, agreed to a five-year contract to stay with

the Ravens.

Former Jets right tackle Austin Howard agreed to a five-year, \$30 million contract, with \$15 million guaranteed after starting every game the last two seasons in New York.

Guards switching teams: Zane Beadles was joining the Jaguars from the Broncos, pending a physical; the Falcons agreed to terms with Jon Asamoah, who left the Chiefs; the Redskins struck a deal with Shawn Lauvao, who left the Browns. The Redskins also agreed to terms with Cardinals receiver Andre Roberts and special teams standout Adam Hayward and scheduled a visit with cornerback Corey Graham.

The Jaguars also were busy, including a trade that sent quarterback Blaine Gabbert to the 49ers for a sixth-round draft pick, an agreement with former Vikings running back Toby Gerhart, and re-signing cornerback Will Blackmon to a two-year deal.

Kick returner and receiver

Dexter McCluster went to the Titans from the Chiefs; defensive end Arthur Jones joined the Colts from the Ravens; defensive end Tyson Jackson and defensive tackle Paul Soliai joined the Falcons; and defensive tackle Earl Mitchell left the Texans for the Dolphins.

Amid it all, the Ware and Peppers departures might have been the most significant developments.

The 31-year-old Ware, who went to seven Pro Bowls while in Dallas, was set to count \$16 million against the salary cap. By releasing him now, the Cowboys, who were right up against the cap, saved more than \$7 million. Ware had a career-low six sacks last season, his ninth in Dallas. He missed time with a thigh injury, then had offseason elbow surgery.

Others released included Bills quarterback Kevin Kolb (who failed a physical), Falcons safety Thomas DeCoud, Steelers linebacker LaMarr Woodley, 49ers cornerback Carlos Rogers, Eagles safety Patrick Chung, and Bengals center Kyle Cook.

Among players staying put: ■ RB Darren McFadden was given a \$4 million, one-year contract by the Raiders.

■ KR-WR Brandon Tate re-signed with the Bengals.

■ PK Adam Vinatieri, the 41-year-old with four Super Bowl rings, agreed to a two-year contract with the Colts. Other PKs getting new contracts: Nick Folk (Jets), Phil Dawson (49ers), Dan Carpenter (Bills).

■ CB Vontae Davis re-signed with the Colts.

■ RB Joique Bell is now signed with the Lions for \$9.3 million over three years, with \$4.3 million guaranteed.

■ LB Perry Riley and WR Santana Moss re-signed with the Redskins.

■ DT Jonathan Babineaux got a three-year contract from the Falcons.

■ TE Anthony McCoy got a one-year deal from the Super Bowl champion Seahawks after he missed all of last season with a torn Achilles tendon.

■ WR Andre Caldwell got a two-year contract from the Broncos.

Friend: Pistorius fired guns in public

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—Oscar Pistorius fired guns in public in the months before he killed his girlfriend—once out of a car sunroof on a road and once in a crowded restaurant, a onetime friend said at the athlete's murder trial Tuesday, drawing an aggressive effort from the chief defense lawyer to pick holes in his testimony.

The account by Darren Fresco portrayed Pistorius as a reckless hothead infatuated with firearms and seemingly drifting down a precarious path before he fatally shot Reeva Steenkamp through a closed toilet door at his home before dawn on Feb. 14, 2013.

Fresco's description of how Pistorius once berated a police officer fit the prosecution's attempts to cast the double-amputee athlete as prone to flashes of anger and blinded by an inflated sense of entitlement at a time when his public image was that of a clean-cut poster boy for overcoming adversity.

"I said to him, are you (expletive) mad?" Fresco testified after, he said, Pistorius fired

his gun out of the sunroof of the car later on the same day that he had the dispute with the police officer. "He just laughed."

At the same time, the testimony was coming from a man whose own actions were under scrutiny. Judge Thokozile Masipa cautioned Fresco, who was also a friend of Steenkamp, that some questions could incriminate him for offenses including discharge of a firearm in a built-up area, negligent damage to property and reckless endangerment. She said he would not be prosecuted if he answered the questions truthfully.

Pistorius, 27, denies shooting the gun in the car, although now two witnesses say that he did. The athlete is on trial for murder in the killing of Steenkamp, and also faces two firearm charges for shooting in public and a third firearm charge for illegal possession of ammunition.

Pistorius says he shot Steenkamp by mistake, thinking she was a dangerous intruder. The prosecution says he killed her

after an argument.

The athlete's demeanor in court Tuesday was drastically different from the previous day, when he needed a vomit bucket as he heard a pathologist give graphic details of the injuries he inflicted on his girlfriend when he shot her multiple times.

This time, Pistorius mostly sat with his hands in his lap and often made notes.

Fresco testified that Pistorius' altercation with a police officer happened in late 2012, when their car was pulled over by traffic police for the second time that day. He said Pistorius was furious with an officer for handling his gun, which he had left on the passenger seat.

"You can't just touch another man's gun," Pistorius said to the officer, according to Fresco. "He started telling the officer: 'Now your fingerprints are all over my gun, so if something happens, you are then going to be liable for anything that had happened.' He was furious about that. Someone else had touched his gun."

Fresco and a former Pisto-



AP
Oscar Pistorius, right, walks with an unidentified man while arriving at the high court in Pretoria, South Africa, Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

it fired. According to Fresco, Pistorius said there was too much "media hype" around him and asked Fresco to take the blame for the shooting, which he did.

Fresco said he had warned Pistorius that the gun was "one-up," meaning it had a bullet in the chamber.

"I knew that he had a big love for weapons," Fresco testified. "My assumption was that he had competency."

Roux asked Fresco when exactly he had warned Pistorius that there was a magazine in the gun and a bullet in the chamber, and when Pistorius had asked him to take the rap. The friend couldn't pinpoint the precise times.

"Will you agree, Mr. Fresco, you have uncertainty ... about what specifically happened and what was said?" Roux asked.

Roux sought to undermine Fresco's character, questioning why he crumpled up a speeding ticket and threw it on the floor of the car after he and Pistorius were stopped by the police. Fresco also said he'd been following some previous testimony in the case on Twitter, which witnesses should not do.

If convicted on the murder charge, Pistorius could be sent to prison for at least 25 years before the chance of parole, the minimum time someone must serve if given a life sentence in South Africa. The judge will ultimately deliver the verdict and decide on any sentence. South Africa has no trial by jury.

Pistorius was born without fibula bones because of a congenital defect, and his legs were amputated when he was 11 months old. He ran on carbon-fiber blades and is a multiple Paralympic medalist. He also competed at the London Olympics but didn't win a medal.

IT&E

From Page 28

sixth inning capped the Comets I's game-long struggle against Dickinson and the rest of IT&E's defense. The second-running Comets I only scored at the bottom of the second inning with Glenn Taro reaching home off a passed ball.

Earlier at the top of the second, Jaime Pangelinan had a solo inside-the-park homer, while Dickinson made an RBI single, giving IT&E a 6-0 lead. The first four runs were recorded in the first inning off the Comets I's lapses. IT&E got three more unearned runs in the fourth to widen the gap, while the last run was registered at the top of the sixth with Frankin Pangelinan's sacrifice out bringing Dickinson home.

Dickinson was perfect at the plate and scored three runs, the most by any player in the game.

Laolao Bay 10, Hustlers 7

J.P. Celis shut out the Hustlers in the last four innings to lift Laolao Bay to a come-from-behind win last Sunday.

Celis was Laolao Bay's third

pitcher in the match, taking over from A.C. Kalen late in the second inning with the Hustlers leading, 7-4. The closer went on to allow only two hits and struck out six. Celis fouled the Hustlers' best chance to score in the fourth inning when he got back-to-back strikeouts and stranded runners and second and third. Then in the sixth and final inning, Celis booted out the Hustlers first two batters and after giving up a double to Juan Lizama, he wrapped the game with another strikeout (on Winfield Ada).

Laolao Bay complemented Celis' steady pitching with a good offense in the third and fourth inning. Franco Namau-leg drilled a two-run double and also scored off a fielder's choice in the third inning to even out the match, 7-all. Laolao Bay then grabbed the lead in the fourth with Kalen scoring off an error at first base and gained cushion after notching two more runs off another Hustlers' miscue and a stolen base from Tommy Agulto.

McDonald's 21, Jets 1

In the second game, McDonald's hammered the Jets to

stretch its winning run to four after a 0-3 start. The Jets continued their slump, falling to a 0-6 slate.

Three McDonald's players went perfect at bat to rout the Jets after only four innings. Third baseman Austin Camacho went 4-for-4 at the plate, hitting a two-run homer in the second inning and scoring four runs. Starting pitcher Jared Reyes was also 4-for-4 at bat and contributed four more runs. Catcher Henry Fleming was 3-for-3 and chipped in four runs, while first baseman Donavin Deleon Guerrero hit 3-for-4, but tallied two RBIs and got four runs.

McDonald's began pulling away in the second inning when it scored seven runs for a promising 10-1 advantage. The Jets logged their lone run in the second inning when James Salalila stole home. Salalila was one of only two batters to hit against Reyes with Steven Kileman the other one, making a single, but was left stranded, as the McDonald's pitcher got the last two strikeouts. Sun Joon Tenorio came in for Reyes in the last two innings and threw a no-hitter while walking two and

Rius girlfriend have both testified that the Olympian shot his gun out of the car sunroof later that day. But their stories do not match in parts, a fact highlighted by defense lawyer Barry Roux.

Fresco, who said he was driving the car, testified that Pistorius fired without warning sometime after visiting an unidentified person's house. Samantha Taylor, who was dating the athlete at the time

and was in the car, has testified that it happened soon after the altercation with police and after Pistorius and Fresco discussed finding a traffic light to shoot at.

Roux also questioned Fresco about an incident at a packed Johannesburg restaurant in the posh Melrose Arch district in early 2013 - about a month before Steenkamp's death - when he said he handed his gun under the table to Pistorius and

KAITO

From Page 28

ging 1:16.97. Japan's Mayuka Ishikawa won the gold medal after recording 1:07.23, while compatriot Haruka Nogami nailed the silver with her 1:09.78.

In the 15-and-over division, Takumi Sugie raced in the 50m

freestyle, missed the finals, but set a personal best time.

Tsunami head coach Hiro Kimura and other club officials accompanied the four swimmers in the two-day competition and the former was happy with Yanai and company's performances.

"I'm so satisfied with the results. Next year, we will bring

many young and strong swimmers to Tokyo. We would like to thank all our supporters in Saipan and Japan—Japan Swimming Federation, Tokyo Swimming Association, Tokai University Urayasu High school, and Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation—for making this trip possible," Kimura said.

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tively. In Group 2, the qualifiers are Glenn Bluitjens and Sam Jones (4-0) and youth players Ezekiel Macario and Jordan Pangilinan (2-2). The Final Four pairings will be played this weekend with Galvez and Caranto battling Pangilinan and Macario and Jones and Bluitjens challenging Aguda and Cordero.

In the men's B doubles, which has only one group, top finishers Deether Edralin and J.P. Nopia led the list of semifinalists. They had a 3-1 record, winning the tiebreak against fellow semifinalists Cordero and Chris Hilario and Young Sang Yu and Jong Min Lee. Rounding out the Top 4 is the tandem of Jojo Savellano and Narlou Achas.

In the men's C doubles, Han Cheoul Yu and Ji Min Lee were alone at the top

spot to clinch the first semis berth and arrange a Final Four showdown against the fourth-ranked duo of Allan Sangyoong Lee and J. Kim. Yu and Ji Min Lee earned a perfect record in the round-robin, five-team field, while Sangyoong Lee and Kim saved one win in four games to catch the last trip to the playoff round. The other semis pairing will have Jereimi Montenejo and John Cano (3-1) squaring off against A.J. Ortega and partner (2-2).

In the singles division, Classes B and C have completed the Final Four list, while knockouts games will still be played this week to determine the qualifiers in Class A.

Macario booked the first semis ticket in Class B, as he recorded a 3-1 mark and won the tiebreak against Edralin. Joining the two in the playoffs are the third-ranked Nopia (2-2), and fourth finisher Yu (2-2).

In Class C, which was divided into two pools, Montenejo and Cano bagged the semis berths in Group 1 for drilling 2-2 and 1-3 marks, respectively, while Ortega (4-0) and Sangyoong Lee (3-1) qualified in Group 2.

In Class A, Galvez and Caranto secured the two semis spots in Group 2, while Jerry Hibi nabbed a Final Four seat in Group 1. Galvez was unbeaten in four games in his pool, while Caranto

registered a 3-1 record. Hibi prevailed in a four-way tie for first place in Group 1 to get out of the woods. He had a 2-2 record to tie Gary Bandoja, Edralin, and Pangilinan. Bandoja and Pangilinan will slug it out for the first knockout game with the winner meeting Edralin for the fourth and last semis ticket.

Meanwhile, qualifiers in the women's singles and doubles will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Friday edition.

MISO Boys Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Marianas High School players and coach Preston Basa, right, flash the No. 1 sign after beating Kagman High School in the varsity finals of the 2013-2014 MISO Boys Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Dolphins clinched the crown after a 37-36 win in Game 2.



Kagman High School's Andrew Palino jumps for a one-hander against two Marianas High School defenders.



Kagman High School's Jason Lampkin pulls up for a shot against three Marianas High School players.



Marianas High School's Ignacio Borja blocks Kagman High School's Mike Muna.



Marianas High School's John Capuyon goes up for a shot against Cedric Ada.



Kagman High School's Jesse Santos is doubled-teamed by Marianas High School's Jeron Ano, left, and Justin Cayading.



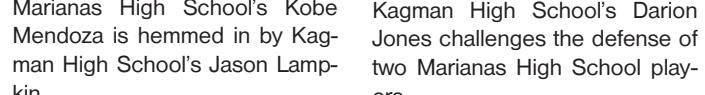
Marianas High School's Irvin Malonzo loses his balance after drawing a foul on Kagman High School's Jesse Santos.



Marianas High School's Prince Factor drives against Kagman High School's Jason Lampkin.



Marianas High School's Kobe Mendoza is hemmed in by Kagman High School's Jason Lampkin.



Kagman High School's Darion Jones challenges the defense of two Marianas High School players.



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from Dolphins
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

IT&E brings down Comets I



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
IT&E's Spencer Dickinson is involved in a run down play between the third base and home plate during the first inning of their game against Comets I in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E snapped the Comets I's streak after cruising to a 10-1 win in the third game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Kaito, Miku strike gold in Tokyo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Kaito Yanai and Miky Tammy brought home gold medals from last weekend's 2014 Tokyo Junior Sprint held at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena in Japan.

Yanai ruled the 100m individual medley race in the boys U14 age group after timing in at 1:03.06. He advanced to the finals after also finishing first in the preliminary races, beating 28 other swimmers. In the race for the gold medal, Yanai defeated Japan's Souta Ishimatsu (1:03.69) and Ruka Kai (1:04.25).



Besides bagging the gold medal in the 100m IM, the 13-year-old swimmer also took a silver medal

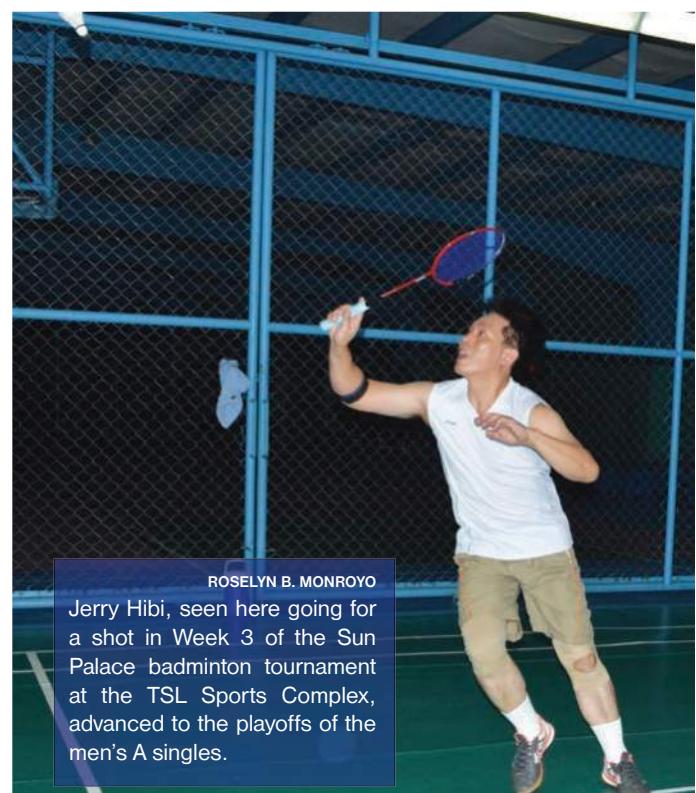


Yanai in the 50m breaststroke to have another successful campaign in his third appearance in the annual tournament. Yanai first joined the Tokyo Sprint in 2010 and he clinched a gold medal in the 100m IM race in the U8 group. Then two years later, he

Spencer Dickinson nearly pitched a complete game, working the mound for IT&E (7-2) in 5.2 innings and allowing only two hits, while striking out eight to hand the Comets I its first loss in seven games. Christopher Achas relieved him at the bottom of the sixth inning and the former got the quick No. 3 out, catching a fly ball from Comets I third batter Ross Arriola. Dickinson nailed the first out, striking out fellow pitcher Francisco Frederick, while IT&E second baseman Denzel Pangilinan and first baseman Philip Kapileo teamed up for the second out. The shutout in the fifth and

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12 pairs clinch playoff berths



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jerry Hibi, seen here going for a shot in Week 3 of the Sun Palace badminton tournament at the TSL Sports Complex, advanced to the playoffs of the men's A singles.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the men's A doubles, Andreu Galvez and Jexler Carantonio and Macoi Aguda and Arias Cordero took the two semis berths in Group 1 after earning 4-0 and 3-1 records, respec-

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U11 age group after clocking in at 31.97 seconds. Tammy had a close win against Japan's Fuuka Kashiwazaki and Wakana Uemura, who submitted identical

See KAITO on Page 26